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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is again going into the merits."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am only saying, Sir, that the Government could have easily waited. We say that the Government should have accepted our view that the emergency should be much more than that to warrant this procedure."

The Mr. hon. T. E. MOIR :—"I would just like to ask, with the permission of the Chair, whether it is not the case that ten days' notice has to be given before any supplementary demand can be moved in the House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"They could have given the notice on the day the notices summoning this Council were sent to us."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"I am asking with reference to the point whether we could move that demand on the 25th February."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"The President could waive notice, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As to the correct interpretation of the second proviso to section 72-D (2) of the Government of India Act, the Opposition may express their views separately on a suitable motion framed and notified according to rules. If they do so, I have no doubt that the Government will give them facilities for its discussion. So far as this motion is concerned, I think it is out of order. But I hope Government will give a suitable opportunity as early as possible for the Opposition to express their opinion regarding the question of emergency."

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

DEMAND XXVII—INDUSTRIES—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now resume discussion on Demand XXVII—Industries. Mr. Gopala Menon will continue his speech."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"Mr. President, Sir, I was speaking with regard to the usefulness of the Leather Trades Institute on Saturday, as I began my speech, and tried to show how far it has served the purpose for which it was created, whether the tanners in this province have in any way been benefited by having that institute. Our problem is how in this province our small industries, our subsidiary industries including home industries, handicraft industries, and art industries, could best be developed. Our tanning industry is a new industry. It received new and fresh impetus during the time of the war. At that time our province supplied tanned skins and hides to Great Britain. But the process of tanning has not come up to the standard which the European countries and America have attained to-day. (A voice : 'Why not?') Because the process of tanning has not come up to that acme of perfection as is practised in the European and American countries. We, however, certainly, have got natural advantages for developing this industry. We have got suitable barks and water required for tanning purposes and also skilled workmen. But yet the tanning materials are of a wild growth and the quantity that we can get is not enough. One of the best tanning materials now used is the avaram bark, and that tanning material

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12 noon. which we can get is insufficient, and the tanners are seeking the help of this institute by sending barks of different kinds from different places to find out the suitability of adopting those in the process of tanning. In this way, the institute is rendering service to the tanners of the province. The question now is whether it has outlived its purpose; because the institute has cost the Government a good deal of money, and according to the statement placed before this House we find that the loss incurred on an average for the last three years is about Rs. 50,000 per annum. I find that the capital expenditure on that institute is Rs. 1,70,520, and of this about Rs. 50,000 has been spent on the laboratory and nearly a lakh on buildings and outfits. A German traveller who visited this institute in the course of the last year declared that the laboratory was one of the finest that he had seen in India. In Calcutta they have got a tanning institute, and I understand that apprentices are trained there. I was in Calcutta in December last and I heard then that that institute was going to be affiliated to the University and that they propose to create a B.Sc. degree in leather. That is the interest which Calcutta is taking with regard to tanning industry. This Local Government with a view to economise expenditure and in order to keep things going consulted the other Provincial Governments to co-operate with them in maintaining this institute as a central institute. Of course this institute is one of the first of its kind and has got up-to-date laboratory and staff. But the reply received from the Provincial Governments was that they were not prepared to co-operate with this Government in that respect. Of course, Calcutta is against Madras with regard to this industry. Calcutta is for the removal of export duty on tanned leather. They want the export duty to be reduced and even removed and Bombay want our skilled workmen but will not give any co-operation in this respect. Our skilled workmen are employed in the tanneries of Bombay and other places.

"Another thing the Government has done in order to economise the expenditure on this institute is that they have given up the instructional side of it. I say that such economy should be exercised in other directions also. But at the same time, I say that the institute should be retained for the benefit of the tanners; because we are exporting tanned skins and hides to the extent of 8 crores, and as our chrome tanning has not developed to a very great extent and there is still room for greater development. ('Hear, hear.') Germany in order to improve its tanning industry put up a heavy tariff of 40 per cent on imports and did not allow goods from India to enter that country. One principle I have to mention in this connexion. The co-operation of other provinces in industrial matters is a thing which is deplorably wanting. The Industrial Commission of 1918 thought about starting an Imperial Industrial department."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Did that Commission deal with the cottage industries?"

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"Yes, they said that cottage industry should be worked as an all-India industry. India has only developed small industries. It is not by developing large industries alone that the industrial regeneration that we look for can be expected to come. It is therefore that I am trying to show that co-operation between province and province in industrial matters is necessary. Although the Industrial Commission of 1918 advised the institution of an Imperial Department of

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Industries, that had to be given up on account of the changes that took place since, on account of the provincial autonomy given in industrial matters, on account of the transfer of industries to the charge of Ministers. Otherwise, they could certainly have got the means by which this provincial co-operation should be sought. There are also other industries in which co-operation between province and province is necessary, say, for instance, silk and sugar, and to this end I remember three years ago a conference was summoned at Simla where the Directors of Industries and other officers of the department met and exchanged views. But that conference did not come to any understanding and proved a failure. The failure that we see in industrial matters is due to the fact that we have not got experts to advise us.

“Coming to the ink industry, we have spent Rs. 33,000, of which we find that Rs. 6,100 is invested in containers alone. The Ink Factory has not been able to find out a proper recipe yet. It is only a small industry and still it has not been able to hold its place in the market. Even the Superintendent of Stationery has declined to purchase the productions of this factory, the ink being of inferior quality. That only shows the necessity for expert advice. The Director and Deputy Director of Industries are laymen and have not got any practical business experience. I find that in Bengal the ink industry is well established and our province can take a lesson from there. That is why I lay stress that by co-operation between province and province a great deal of development can be achieved in these matters. The officers of the departments in the several provinces should meet and find out the defects in the working in each place and find suitable remedies for such defects. I may, in connexion with the Tanning Institute, state that there are some tanners who are prepared to send their sons for apprenticeship in that institute and may be charged high fees, say, as much as Rs. 500 per annum for each apprentice. I understand there are already one or two applications for apprenticeship course.

“With regard to textiles, I find that the hon. Member from Madura said that this Textile Institute was removed to Madras at the instance of the Textile Expert. I have been a member of the Textile Conference and I can state that it was not so. It was removed at the instance of the then Director, Mr. R. W. Davies, and not at the instance of the present Textile Expert. I only want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister that when this cottage industries survey is completed the whole thing must be examined by an expert. The reports will contain only statistical information. The Mysore Darbar sought the assistance of Sir Alfred Chatterton and he and the Director of Industries in Mysore are now touring in Mysore with a view to examine the possibilities of the cottage industries and resuscitating such of them as are languishing for want of expert advice. I therefore appeal to my Friend, the Minister, to depute an officer of the department, say, the Deputy Director, and get the help of such experts as Sir Alfred Chatterton to examine the reports submitted by the Special Officer before final action is taken on those reports.

“With regard to the training of students, the hon. Member from Madura said that we have been spending a lot of money in that direction. I may quote one or two instances where some of these students who received training in England have come out here and started industries of their own. I know one instance, in the case of the metal industry, a small industry, for making

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padlocks, pickaxes, mamuties, etc., one of the students who went to Sheffield and took his degree in metallurgy has come out here and started an industry of his own at Shoranur, South Malabar."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is it a cottage industry?"

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"Any industry on a small scale is a cottage industry."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"My idea of cottage industry is different. The hon. Member is not therefore in order in referring to it."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"It is a small industry. With regard to small cottage industries . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am inclined to define a cottage industry as one where a man sits in his own cottage and does the work."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I agree; I have to speak with some amount of restraint on this motion, Mr. President."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Perhaps Mr. Gopala Menon was not in the House the day before yesterday. There was a suggestion to withdraw this and get on to the next motion, but the Mover did not consent to it. There are other opportunities available, but if the hon. Members do not avail themselves of those opportunities I cannot allow them to discuss the next motion on this."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I shall therefore conclude my speech by pointing out that these students who had gone on scholarships. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I hope the hon. Member will give up that line of argument. I may point out that many hon. Members are anxious to speak on this motion, and the grant has to be put to vote at 5 minutes to 1 o'clock."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I shall therefore close my remarks by merely pointing out to the hon. the Minister that the survey which is being conducted with regard to cottage industries should be examined carefully by an expert after the reports are received in order to prevent mistakes occurring in the future."

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* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Those who have spoken before me have urged the necessity for much higher expenditure in the shape of more schools, greater facilities for affording the necessary training. My hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, has deplored the lack of co-operation between the various Provincial Governments and he also deplores the lack of experts to give the necessary guidance to those who are to start these industries. (A voice: 'What do you say?') If I rise to speak, Sir, it is to impress upon the hon. the Minister in charge of the department the desirability of reviving certain industries which are fast disappearing from this county and the extinction of which would be a blot on the nation. I will first of all refer to what is known as the bangle industry. Surely, it is a cottage industry and in the past this was a speciality of a large section of the community called Kavarais. The women used to make these bangles and the men would go and slip these bangles into the hands of the Indian ladies. But unfortunately the old type of bangles has gone out of fashion and has been replaced by glass bangles manufactured, I am told, in Japan. It is therefore a very melancholy sight to find these vendors of bangles carrying on their back and

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head loads of glass bangles manufactured in foreign countries. Sir, Indian ladies require these bangles. Women, rich and poor, young and old, high and low, all of them require these bangles. Some may say that they are going in for gold bangles but my experience is that even those who wear gold bangles want in addition some of these glass bangles provided the latter are of a design, shape and size to suit their taste. India is thus being drained of lakhs and lakhs of money which goes to the foreign manufacturer. I remember six years ago the then Minister for Development, Sir Venkata Reddi Nayudu, wrote letters here and there to several non-official Members and tried his very best to start and develop the industry so as to put an end to foreign competition. I do not know what has been done during the past six years. Sir, if there is one cottage industry of very great use which must by all means be revived, it is this bangle industry.

"I pass to another simple industry which, I think, has nearly died out in the Tanjore district. That is the dyeing of a kind of cloth called kaili worn by Muhammadan friends, Malays and Singalis. Large quantities of this cloth were dyed and exported from the Tanjore district to the Federated Malay States, Burma and Ceylon; but unfortunately, now, we find large quantities of these imported into this country. This is an industry which attracted my attention when I was a young lad. I used to spend a good deal of time in those houses where I found the dyeing of these cloths proceeded with, especially the number of processes of washing and re-washing and with a view to making of these colours very fast. Sir, here is another cottage industry which must by all means be revived by liberal loans and also as my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, suggested by placing an industrial expert at the services of the public ready to revive such an industry.

"I will pass on to another industry, that is, the weaving of certain towels—silk towels or towels with silk borders and cotton cloth and certain silk fabrics very remarkable for their durability, fineness and excellence of their texture and affording occupation for thousands and thousands of women especially members of the Sowrashtta and other communities. Sir, this industry is fast disappearing especially on account of the importation of large quantities of certain artificial silks and imitation silks which compared with these silk fabrics are worthless stuff hardly lasting for more than two or three years. Whereas those silk fabrics which I spoke of just now last a whole lifetime or for a very long period. Here is an industry which has been affording occupation to thousands and thousands of Indian women. If this industry is not revived and protected from extinction from foreign competition, it is certainly idle to speak of having a Department of Industries. (A voice: 'Are you voting for this?')

"Another industry. The gold threads and silver threads required for turbans and for saris were all made in India, but now I hear that large quantities of these threads are coming from France and even smuggled into this province from the neighbouring territories. If this importation in large quantities of gold and silver threads into our province is not prevented I fear another cottage industry will soon disappear and go out of existence.

"Sir, I shall not weary the patience of the House by enumerating other cottage industries which may be revived or others like the lace industry which may be extended. The preliminary report of the Survey of Cottage Industries comprises only three districts, namely, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. I may enumerate a number of cottage industries peculiar to the

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southern districts. I will, however, close with this remark that foreign merchants have come to exploit even the religious sentiments, for I know that idols and painting of Indian Gods are made in Germany and America and imported into this country. Who would believe this, Sir? ('We' from the Swarajist benches). Nevertheless it is so. To such a state of indifference or helplessness or apathy are we reduced in respect to the various cottage industries in this country. If the Industries department really means helping the poor people, if it seeks to justify its existence, then I would make an urgent appeal to the hon. Minister for Development and his department that they should try their very best to revive some of those cottage industries and also render available the services of experts so that these industries may be tried and the people pursuing these industries may follow the right methods and be in a position to keep off foreign trader and competitor and cater to the needs of the peoples of this country. These are indigenous industries and there is every reason that these should first of all be revived before we try our hands in introducing fresh industries into this country."

* Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Mr. President, in this connexion I should like to urge upon the Government the necessity for taking up handspinning as a cottage industry and encouraging it. It is the cottage industry for more reasons than one. It is best suited to the conditions of India. It is sometimes argued that it is not so remunerative or profitable as some other cottage industries, that after all a spinner gets only one or two annas a day by taking to the charka and that it is not enough for a spinner to support himself on the charka. But that argument is based on a fallacy. The advocates of handspinning do not want that handspinning should be substituted for any other industry. It is an industry for those who have no other occupation for one reason or another and who cannot take up any other occupation. There are millions of people in India who could take up this and this alone and who would not be in a position to take up any other industry whatsoever. We know that people come from distances of ten or fifteen miles to earn one or two annas a day. There are a number of people who are willing to earn this one or two annas a day. There are people who have no other occupation by which they can earn anything. It is pre-eminently a spare time occupation in India. There are a certain class of people who cannot work for any wages or do coolie work but who are willing to spin at home getting the slivers home through their daughters or sons or some relation. There are a large number of widows or old women who are not fit to take up any other work but would be willing to take up this if sufficient facilities are given to them. There are thousands of people if we can provide occupation. As a matter of fact, the pangs of poverty are more felt by these people and not by those people for whom the wage earning is open. The people who go in for daily wages, who can earn by taking up coolie work—they are not so much poverty stricken as these people who are suffering at home and who cannot for one reason or another work in the fields and earn something to support them. These people have to suffer all the pangs of poverty by remaining at home. These are the people that are really poor. These are the people that are the real sufferers. Handspinning is the industry that we can supply them with. By starting any other industry we would not be in a position to reach thousands of these people. This handspinning has also got other merits. There is no danger of overproduction. Cloth being an article of universal consumption there is no danger of not finding a market for the yarn spun by these people. There are weavers in every village and so there is a ready market for the yarn. There

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is no need for advertising these goods. There is no going in search of markets for these goods. Therefore it is a case where there is a rich market, a universal market and a market at home. Even if the people can spin only just enough to cover their family budget of cloths for the year, that is enough for them. That will be a great saving. Further, there is no need for any large investment or any skill. Even small girls and old women can easily learn to work a charka after practising for a few days. This is an occupation which can be taken up by all classes of people. That is why we have not got a separate community of spinners at any time. We have got communities with regard to other professions such as bangle making, etc. There are special communities for even weaving because these are occupations which imply skill of some kind or other. Since spinning is an occupation which does not require any skill, it has been taken up by all classes of people in the country.

"And it does not require any great investment. A few rupees is all that is required for the purpose. But if we want to start any other industry, it will require a lot of money. 12-30 p.m.

"It has also got this advantage, namely, that charka spinning can be taken up at any time and left off at the free will and choice of any person without any dislocation of his normal life. It can be taken up at any moment and left off at any moment. It does not in any way involve the dislocation of his other business. There are a large number of people in the country, I know, who would be very willing to spin and earn an anna or two a day if they are given facilities. I know of people coming from ten or fifteen miles to earn this paltry sum.

"Again, here the question of master and servant is entirely absent. These people have not to be under the subordination of capitalists or the middlemen. They feel quite independent, nay, quite at home in taking up this hand spinning and therefore they do not feel any humiliation in taking to it. That is the reason why people are willing to take to hand spinning in preference to any other more remunerative occupations that may be provided.

"Further, just at this time there is a very great advantage for pushing on hand spinning as some of the best patriots of the country are now engaged in giving the necessary advertisement for this. From Mahatma Gandhi downwards some of the best patriots who have a love for the poor are advertising this industry and the Government need not spend anything at all on this account. Mahatma Gandhi, Sir P. C. Ray and his lieutenant Das Gupta of Bengal, Mr. Konda Venkatappaya of Andhradesa and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar of the Tamil Nadu are engaged in this work. From their patriotic fervour but not for the sake of fun that they have put in their heart and soul into the matter. They are very enthusiastic over the matter because from their actual experience, from having worked in the field, they know that it is *the* industry which can reach and relieve the poor of this country. There are a large number of people who, as I have already said, welcome this as a God-send and who will be benefited by this. And of course, it may be argued by the Government that because these people are actuated by political motives, the Government should not encourage this movement; but I think that is pre-eminently a case, in my opinion, where the Government should co-operate with these people. What does this khadi movement stand for? It stands for winning *swaraj*. *Swaraj* should not be mere transfer of power to the classes, but it should bring relief to the masses

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It should be a swaraj which would bring relief to the masses and not which brings mere power to the classes. Khadi movement is one which will bring in economic independence to the masses in general and that is what the khadi movement stands for (hear, hear). With regard to the winning of swaraj even the British Parliament have expressed their willingness to grant swaraj to India in course of time. If their professions are sincere, they should encourage this khadi movement which will pave the way for real swaraj. Therefore once again I say that, so far as even the political motives are concerned, it is a case where the Government should co-operate with those patriots and come to their aid. There are several opportunities for the Government to come to their aid and assist this hand spinning industry. For instance, enough capital is not invested in this hand spinning industry. If necessary capital has not been invested in this important industry, it is because the capitalists in this country have not come forward to invest their capital and aid the masses. That is why people engaged in hand spinning are handicapped in several places. For instance, we are not in a position to stock enough cotton. We have to buy cotton in the open market from month to month to meet the daily needs. But cotton in the market will be available only in certain seasons. So it means when cotton is not available in the market, hand spinning must be stopped with the result that the poor people should suffer. It is a very painful duty which we have to perform when we have to send away poor people coming from distant places for want of cotton. If on the other hand, we had capital, we could buy cotton at the favourable season and have it stored and thus be in a position to give relief to these poor people.

“Again with regard to cloth also there is a market for the khadi cloth only in certain seasons and not throughout the year. The demand is not uniform. It is great during certain months of the year and there is at other times practically no demand at all. It is the experience of those who have anything to do with this khadi production that when the demand is the highest, we are not in a position to supply the demand. Therefore if the Government are willing to really assist this industry, they should come forward to give the necessary moneys to produce enough cloth in the slack season and store it so as to enable us to meet the demand without any difficulty whatsoever, when it comes.

“Again, if the Government will also purchase some of this cloth, it will go a great way. Though many people are willing to buy khadi as they believe that it will conduce to the economic independence of the masses, they are not willing to go in for it merely because there is a lurking fear in their minds, or I may say some suspicion in their minds that the Government are against it. They also fear that their superiors may take them to task. But if the Government will themselves purchase at least a small quantity, this will certainly remove the suspicion in their minds, and would go a long way. So, if the Government are really sincere in helping the masses who are really very poor and are also dumb, the only way to do that is to encourage this cottage industry.”

* Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—“Mr. President, Sir, I should like to say a few words on the usefulness of Industrial Homes for Women, one of which is located in Mylapore. It gives not only protection, free boarding, lodging to a number of widows and destitute women, but it also trains them to very useful professions. It is engaged in hand-spinning, hand weaving,

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rattan work, lace, embroidery, sewing, music, etc., and the inmates are also trained as vocational teachers. And now that we are going to introduce vocational training in our schools, these women teachers will be very useful as teachers in Government schools. This institution is open to all castes and creeds. They are not only made self-supporting and self-reliant but also made to be useful to the community. I am very glad to find in the budget there is a provision made for Rs. 1,500 for scholarships for Adi-Dravida girls intended to be trained in this Home. Now the expenses of the institute comes to nearly Rs. 20,000, and hon. Members will remember that in the year 1927 a resolution was moved in this Council urging upon Government to give liberal grants to the Women's Home of Service. The same Home has been developed into the Seva Sadan and is running on these lines, that is, giving much attention to the industries rather than to education. Now nothing has been done so far and the resolution has not been given effect to. But I heard from the Superintendent that there is a provision for giving them Rs. 1,200 from the Industries Department. So, I request the Government to see that this very useful institution is helped with a substantial sum because it is run by a Woman Superintendent; because the women trained in this institution are to go out to the villages as missionary workers. The inmates learn a true spirit of service under such management and they are much better than the women who are trained in other Government institutions. The workers being all honorary, the inmates live in an atmosphere which conduces to the development of the spirit of service, love for one another and love for humanity which are the qualities essential for a missionary. Hence such Homes run by voluntary agencies should be encouraged. Our aim is to develop such institutions in all our districts. Similar Homes are run in Bombay and also in Bengal. So I most respectfully urge on the authorities to give a liberal grant to this Home."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SYEED :—"Mr. President, Sir, with regard to Cottage Industries, I shall only refer to the survey that has been made. I am surprised, Sir, that in spite of the observations made by the Industrial Commission of 1916-1918, the Government appointed a non-technical man to carry on the survey. Probably the hon. the Minister is not aware of the observations and I shall read this for his information. Referring to the Industrial survey carried by the Bengal Government the report says:—

"None of these surveys was made by officers with technical knowledge of any industry, and they were all confined to a description of the various provinces from an economic point of view, including superficial accounts or organized industries and more detailed investigations of small and cottage industries, with descriptions of processes, rates of wages, costs of raw material, and prices of and demand for products. The reports usually include proposals on very general lines for the improvement of local industries, with schemes for the organization of the necessary staff. They are useful only for administrative purposes as reviews of the existing industrial position, and as affording a basis for the organization of a local Department of Industries. Expert examinations of particular industries have also been made in Bombay."

"It is irrelevant to the matter under discussion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I suppose the whole of it is irrelevant."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Anyhow I shall proceed

"This account of the efforts made by Government for the improvement of Indian industries shows how little has been achieved owing to the lack of definite and accepted policy'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Will the hon. Member quote only those passages which relate to cottage industries? Only they will be relevant to

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this debate. I also desire to point out to the hon. Member that the time for discussion of this cut is short and that there are many more hon. Members anxious to speak."

* **MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED** :—" I shall proceed, Sir.

' And to the absence of an appropriate organization of special experts.'

" With regard to the recommendations of the Commission on Cottage Industries, they are innumerable. Sir, I find that effect has not been given to any of them by the hon. Minister or his predecessor. I do not blame him for this. The present Minister has to be blamed for the continuance of a Deputy Collector with a certain number of tahsildars to carry on this survey. I consider, Sir, that the report on Cottage Industries made by a non-technical man is not worth the paper on which it is written. The hon. the Minister should have deputed the Director of Industries or the Deputy Director of Industries to carry on this survey. I know, Sir, that the Minister might say he was not able to do that because the Director is not a technical man and cannot survey the cottage industries himself.

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" But what about the Deputy Director? Probably he is also a non-technical man. He was probably a shop-assistant in or a commercial agent for a certain English firm in Bombay without any knowledge of the languages of the country. Of what use will such a Deputy Director be to us in carrying out a survey of cottage industries? Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that the cottage industries started by this Government as experimental and demonstration concerns have failed. They could not be otherwise. In the regime of a non-technical Director and a non-technical Deputy Director, nothing else could be expected. The failure of the glue industry, the jam industry, the ink industry and so many others of which a list was given by the hon. Minister some time ago is due to this utter lack of technical knowledge in the men at the top in the department."

* The hon. the **PRESIDENT** :—" I do not think the factories of the Government come under the category of cottage industries."

* **MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED** :—" In order to decide upon giving the necessary help to cottage industries I want the Government to conduct a proper and useful survey. I want to know whether the Minister will direct the Deputy Director of Industries to examine the report on the Survey of Cottage Industries hitherto made and submit a scheme for the encouragement of these industries. For lack of policy and for lack of technical experts the Minister will not be able to do anything. If the Minister does not get the necessary technical advice from the existing men, he must at least get these non-technical men transferred to some other department and appoint new men with technical knowledge. I would like to know whether any European firm in this country will employ a man possessing no technical knowledge at all and possessing no knowledge of any industry whatever on Rs. 1,500, call him a Deputy Director and post him in charge of a department of any industry. If the hon. Minister finds that he is helpless to get rid of these non-technical men, he should come out of the Treasury Bench and do something with us on this side. It is not yet too late."

* **MR. DANIEL THOMAS** :—" Mr. President, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the state of the jaggery industry in the district of Tinnevely. Nearly half the district is covered by palmyra groves. The condition of the soil is such that it is not fit for any other sort

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[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

of cultivation or growth, so that the owners of nearly half the district have to depend on the yield of the palmyra juice and the jaggery juice manufactured out of the yield of the trees. The difficulties under which this industry now suffers are these. These trees yield juice only during six months of the year, that is, from January to June, and during the rest of the year the palmyra climbers have consequently no scope for employment. On account of this lack of employment for one-half of the year, it happens that petty traders in jaggery make advances to these palmyra climbers and jaggery manufacturers at very exorbitant terms during the off-season for the jaggery to be manufactured in the next season. As soon as the manufacturing season commences these creditors pounce upon the manufacturers, etc., and take away the produce leaving nothing to the actual manufacturers.

"There is also another thing. Jaggery commands an advantageous price only at certain seasons. The economic condition of the jaggery manufacturers is such that they are not able to store jaggery for sale during the periods when it fetches a good price. As a result of these difficulties the jaggery industry is practically dying out in the district and the condition of the owners of these palmyra topes is becoming very hard indeed. I submit in this connexion another thing also. When no other class of trees is taxed as trees in the district, these palmyra trees alone are taxed at so much per tree. Whether the trees yield or not, the taxes are collected automatically by the tax-gatherer. I submit therefore that the difficulties in the way of carrying on the jaggery industry successfully are numerous and formidable and that this is one of the industries which requires special fostering and special consideration at the hands of the Government.

"As regards sugar industry, our goal is to manufacture Indian sugar adequate to the needs of the country. No adequate attempts have been made in that direction and Java sugar is being brought into the country to the detriment of our sugar industry. Under the circumstances, in order to advance towards the desirable goal of making India self-sufficient in the matter of sugar manufacture and in order also to revive the jaggery manufacture in the district of Tinnevely and in other districts also, it is necessary that the Government should come forward with some scheme by which these palmyra climbers and jaggery manufacturers could be helped by the grant of loans during the off-season and the jaggery manufactured could be stored in some convenient places for sale during the advantageous season."

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Mr. President, Sir, as regards the cottage industries, this Government have no policy whatsoever. It is a well-known fact that this Government killed the cottage industries. The fact that the East India Company killed some of the cottage industries and this Government mercilessly killed the remaining cannot be controverted. Now, many hon. Members have made valuable suggestions for the improvement of our cottage industries. But I am quite sure none of them will be accepted. The fact that an officer who does not know anything about the industries is placed at the head of the department is a clear indication to show that this Government do not intend to do anything in this matter at all. The fact again that another man who does not know anything at all has been appointed as Deputy Director of Industries is another proof of the intentions of the Government. Now, during the last two years a survey of the cottage industries is being made. I asked several questions on this subject and the

[Mr. K. V. R. Swami]

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only answer has been that the Government are prepared to consider, and are considering everything. They are prepared to consider everything in this world. But how long they will consider and what conclusions they will come to are not known. Ordinarily this sort of consideration lasts the whole term of a Ministry and, in case the same Ministry continues in office for a second term also, the consideration lasts for both terms. At the end of the term the Minister quietly lays down his office and nothing is done with reference to this subject at all. When a new Minister takes office he says : I will consider all the points very carefully and come to conclusions later on. That game is going on for some years now. If the Ministry wants to do anything in this matter, it must be a strong Ministry and must act unitedly. So far, only a survey of the cottage industries is going on. Even on matters referred to in the reports of this survey nothing is being done. They want to wait till all the districts are surveyed and all the proposals are placed before the Government. They seem to think that they will be handicapped if they now decide upon helping industries like bangle industry or jaggery industry in particular places. The best way of avoiding any trouble is to postpone the matter for ever. We are getting everything from foreign countries including the toys for our children. These things are manufactured in Japan as cottage industries and sent over here. For want of facilities these are not manufactured here on a large scale and the importation of these things continues. I conclude by expressing the hope that hon. Minister will give us some hope in this direction."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Sir, the Government have not at all neglected the cottage industries. At the end of 1926 they decided that a survey of cottage industries in the Presidency, both existing and potential, should be made for the purpose of selecting particular industries for help in order to enable the agriculturists during the slack season to have a suitable occupation. An officer of the grade of Deputy Collector was appointed in April 1927 and subsequently three Deputy Tahsildars were also appointed. Their reports are nearly ready and the final report for all the districts will be available by the end of this month. As soon as the final report is received, the Government will consider the lines on which these industries could be developed and organized. It will be seen therefore that the Government are already doing their best with a view to encourage cottage industries. With the object of fostering the cottage industries, I may say that the rules under the Act are being sympathetically worked and even to-day a set of rules framed has been placed on the table in accordance with the Act."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Out of 4 lakhs only Rs. 20,000 has been given under the State-aid to Industries Act. The rest lapsed."

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I may say that cottage industries have been exempted from the more restrictive provisions of the Act with regard to furnishing of security, maintenance of accounts, etc. We are going to amend the Act further to enable us to give more liberal grants to all industries. If more money is required, I shall come to the Council for a supplementary grant. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : What about the Director and the Deputy Director, Sir ?) These are the lines on which the Government propose to proceed.

" Now, I will deal with the various points raised one by one. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju wanted that the rules in regard to the grant of loans should be published. I may for his information say that I will issue

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them as early as possible. I have to day placed on the table of the House one set of rules, but action cannot be taken on them before the expiry of one month.

“ My Friend, Mr. Tulasiram, said something about the transfer of the Textile Institute from Madras to Madura. I am afraid that the hon. Member probably forgets that we are now in the 20th century. The hon. Member said that the Director of Industries is not an Indian. He was not probably aware that our Director of Industries is a Muhammadan gentleman. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : ‘ He is not an expert.’)

“ Many Members spoke about the Textile department. I may inform them that a conference was held as per a resolution of this House and that it has made a unanimous recommendation for the formation of a separate department for textiles. Some recommendations have also been made regarding the handloom and weaving industries. Government have passed orders that pending the formation of a separate department, all the recommendations of the conference should be given effect to as early as possible. Orders will soon be issued and after that the Government propose to form an advisory committee to advise on all textile matters. Almost all the recommendations will be given effect to to improve as much as possible the handloom weaving industry. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : ‘ All the recommendations ?’) Yes, all the recommendations.

“ With regard to the Leather Trade Institute, Government are also alive to the necessity of closing down this institute. As far as the Government are concerned, we have decided to close the education section of this institute. With regard to the tanning section we are trying to get opinion from experts whether it is not possible to revive it inasmuch as the people concerned in the tanning industry are also agreeable to the existence of such a section.

1 p.m.

“ Mr. Harisarvottama Rao and Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar went into details with regard to several cottage industries and complained that action was not taken by the Government in connexion therewith. As I have already stated, a scheme or policy will be laid down with regard to the development of these industries and action will be taken by the Government in the near future.

“ With regard to the appointments of non-technical men as Director and Deputy Director of Industries, I am not responsible for the appointments. (Voices : ‘ Can you get rid of them ?’)

“ As soon as the present incumbents’ term expires, I may assure hon. Members that all the information that they have given to me now will be borne in mind by the Government at the time of appointment of their successors.

“ As regards the demand made by the hon. Deputy President with regard to Mylapore Women’s Home of Service, I may say that the lace-making and embroidery sections have been recognized by the Industries Department and some grants have been given to them last year.

“ Mr. Daniel Thomas said with regard to jaggery industry that it was a complicated problem. Any suggestions made by the hon. Member will be taken notice of by the Government and every help will be given for encouraging this industry.”

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I now put the motion to vote. The question is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,69,800 by Rs. 100 under Demand XXVII—Industries.”

The motion was put and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and the House divided thus :

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | 13. Mr. K. R. Karant. |
| 2. „ K. Koti Reddi. | 14. „ P. Anjaneyulu. |
| 3. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 15. „ A. Parasurama Rao. |
| 4. „ S. Satyamurti | 16. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |
| 5. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 17. „ P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu. |
| 6. „ J. A. Saldanha. | 18. „ C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar. |
| 7. „ G. Harisaravottama Rao. | 19. „ C. Marudavanam Pillai. |
| 8. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur. | 20. „ C. Obi Reddi. |
| 9. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur. | 21. „ M. A. Krishnaswami Nayakar. |
| 10. Mr. L. K. Tulasiram. | 22. Meera Ravutar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad. |
| 11. „ K. V. R. Swami. | 23. Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu. |
| 12. „ D. Narayana Raju. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks. | 28. Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayanan Nambudiripad. |
| 2. „ Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 29. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 3. „ Mr. T. E. Moir. | 30. „ K. Krishnan. |
| 4. „ Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 31. „ V. I. Muniswami Pillai. |
| 5. „ Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. | 32. „ W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar. |
| 6. „ Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar. | 33. „ Thomas, Daniel. |
| 7. „ Dr. P. Subbarayan | 34. „ S. Venkiah. |
| 8. Dr. (Mrs) Muthulakshmi Reddi. | 35. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan. |
| 9. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 36. Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja. |
| 10. Mr. Hilton Brown. | 37. „ S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 11. „ H. A. Watson. | 38. Zamindar of Kallikota. |
| 12. „ C. A. Souter. | 39. Mr. U. Ramaswami Ayyar. |
| 13. „ S. H. Slater. | 40. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. |
| 14. „ A. McG. C. Tampoe. | 41. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam. |
| 15. „ C. W. E. Cotton. | 42. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao. |
| 16. „ V. Ch. John. | 43. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. |
| 17. „ M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar. | 44. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 18. Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed. | 45. Mr. P. T. Rajan. |
| 19. Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi. | 46. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 20. Mr. A. B. Shetty. | 47. Mr. G. R. Premayya. |
| 21. „ J. Bheemayya. | 48. Khan Bahadur Abul Razaack Sahib Bahadur. |
| 22. „ R. Foulkes. | 49. T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur. |
| 23. „ P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai. | 50. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 24. Mahmud Schamnad Bahadur Sahib. | 51. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 25. Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara. | 52. Zamindar of Mirzapuram. |
| 26. Zamindar of Singampatti. | |
| 27. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappah Bahadur. | |

Ayes 23. Noes 52.

The motion was lost.

The main demand (Demand XXVII) was then put and carried and the grant made.

DEMAND XXVIII—FISHERIES

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—“ On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

‘ That Government be granted not exceeding 8.70 lakhs under Demand XXVIII—Fisheries.’ ”

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Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for Direction be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"This motion is intended to discuss the working of the department in Malabar and South Kanara.

"Sir, there are a large number of fishermen, in Malabar and South Kanara, and a good deal of attention has been given to the development of the fishing industry on the West Coast by the Fisheries department. A committee has been recently appointed to enquire into the working of this department and to suggest lines of future work regarding the development of this industry. I fail to see why no man belonging to the West Coast fishermen has been put on this committee. Two important research stations are in Malabar. At one of these, viz., in Chaliyam, they have been trying to develop the canning industry and at the other place Tanur fish-curing, fish preservation and experiments in oil and guano manufacture have been carried on. We are only at the beginning of the development of this industry and there is a great deal more to be done in refining the oil, in improving the quality of the guano and in perfecting the process of manufacturing fish meal. The work is suffering for want of experts. Recently I drew the attention of the House by means of an interpellation to the placing of a layman with no qualifications for doing the work of a Research Assistant at Tanur. The qualified man who was there was transferred to a fish-curing yard and a man with no qualification for research work has been put in his place. The reply which the Government gave to my interpellation was that it was done only as a temporary measure, and that they were awaiting the report of the Fisheries Committee to put a qualified man in charge of the works at Tanur. Research work is being very much handicapped in every place for want of experts. I understand that a ten years programme of research work was drawn up by the Director and accepted by Government in 1926 but very little has been attempted to be done in this direction. There is no place for training the workers required either for administration work or for research work. So far as I know there is no place which gives training in the higher branches of fishery science."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am afraid the hon. Member is going beyond the terms of his motion."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"I am referring to the work that is being done in the research and how it is suffering neglect."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member can refer to the administration of this department in the two districts referred to in his motion."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"I am referring to the work of the department in Malabar and South Kanara."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is not in order."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"For the Fisheries Training Institute at Calicut which is meant to train teachers for elementary schools and also for providing technical instructions in the fishing industry, we want experts and no experts are available. In 1927 the fishermen in South Kanara went on deputation to the hon. Minister and asked for a Fisheries Technical school in Mangalore for training teachers as well as for giving special instructions to fishermen who want advanced technical instruction. Though the Director recommended this request for a Technical school, the Government have not seen it fit to take any action in the matter."

[Mr. A. B. Shetty]

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"The necessity for socio-economic work among fishermen on the West Coast is very well understood. Sir Frederick Nicholson drew the attention of the Government years ago to the low, intellectual, social and economic status of the fishing community. He said they are poor, utterly ignorant, hopelessly involved in debt, and they are being exploited by middlemen and money-lenders. They are greatly addicted to drinking habits. Their fishing hamlets are a set of dirty houses situated in foul surroundings. Sir Nicholson drew up a comprehensive scheme for improving the material and moral condition of these people.

1-15
p.m.

"These co-operative societies are not at all in a satisfactory working condition. There are no societies for the purchase of salt and fisheries. No loans are granted by societies to buy these things. We have 27 fishery schools in Malabar and 12 schools in South Kanara. These schools are not at all satisfactorily housed or staffed or equipped. Both these societies and schools which are under the supervision of the authorities are suffering for want of sufficient supervision. There are a number of fish-curing yards; these also are under the inspecting officers. It is said that several of them have been working at a loss. No steps have yet been taken to see how the working of these fish-curing yards can be improved. The price of salt issued for curing fish has been doubled since the year 1924. It is said that an additional sum of Rs. 9,784 is got by the Government as the result of doubling the price of salt. Representations have been made in this matter by fishermen in Malabar and South Kanara asking the price of salt to be reduced. But nothing has been done. The inspecting staff is too inadequate to see to the working of the fish-curing yards; they have to inspect the oil and guano factories; they have to supervise the co-operative societies and schools. Their number is too inadequate for all this work. The Director himself has proposed that the inspecting staff should be strengthened. But this matter also is kept pending receipt of the report of the Fisheries Committee. There is some temperance work that is being done among these people; but for temperance or any other social or economic work there are not trained men. Men who are trained in the fishing industry cannot at all be said to be suitable for this sort of work. Unless the social and economic condition of the fishermen is improved, we cannot develop the fishing industry. The department is marking time and waiting for the report of the Fisheries Committee. I trust that at least such reforms as can be effected in all these various matters without waiting for the report of the Fisheries Committee would be given effect to."

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"Sir, I beg to second the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"Sir, all the matters referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, are under the consideration of the Fisheries Committee and I have already stated that its report will be published by the end of July. Therefore no action can be taken by the Government until the report is published. I am sorry it was not possible to include one of the members of the fishermen community in the Fisheries Committee. But men who have taken great interest in the matter in the Legislative Council have been nominated to the committee and the fishermen themselves are being cited as witnesses and they gave evidence in Malabar. Mr. Shetty suggested that some matters which were not under the consideration of the Fisheries Committee, for instance, the economic and social

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improvement of the fishermen community, might be taken up at once. The Government have taken action with regard to the working of the co-operative societies in the fishermen area. The administration report of last year suggested that the departmental work required thorough overhauling and the Registrar has been asked to advise in the matter. The officers of the Fisheries department themselves are doing a great deal of social service among the fishermen. They are preaching against intemperance and extravagance. Other matters are under the consideration of the Fisheries Committee and I do not want to say anything on those matters now. With these words I request my hon. Friend to withdraw the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is 'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for Direction by Rs. 100'."

The motion was put and lost.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for Direction by Rs. 100'.

"Briefly, my grounds are these. I wish to draw attention to the inefficiency and extravagance of the department doing so little of good, adding to the price of salt given to fish-curers and other burdens of the fisherfolk. The Madras Government are the only one in India which have got a Fisheries department; it is inefficient and extravagant. We recognized that long ago and it was proposed by the Retrenchment Committee that this department should be abolished. But some how or other it has been maintained and I am sorry to say that it is maintained with little benefit to anybody. I want answers to the following questions: What community is being helped by this department, what industry it has fostered as a popular one, what researches it has done and what other benefits are being done or proposed to be done? I don't say that the Fisheries Committee is fishy as somebody remarked the other day. I wish to point out that it has no distinct and clear policy; there is want of clear foresight, want of proper economy. I am in a position to differentiate between the benefits derived from this department by the fishermen in South Kanara and North Kanara. I am very much in touch with both. In North Kanara the fishermen can easily get salt from the Salt department for curing fish at 10 annas or 12 annas a maund. In our Presidency we have a Fisheries department and that is the reason why the price of salt has been increased. It is being sold now at Re. 1-4-0. Ten annas is charged extra because we have got a Fisheries department which does nothing more than the Salt department does for fishing yards. The worries of these fishermen can be realized by one who lives among them as I have done. No Minister has done anything for this department. This department would be abolished by the Minister if he lives among the fishermen and sees what is going on. If anything has been done for the improvement of the industry, it is by the self-enterprise of the people themselves. The Government have contributed nothing to improve their condition. Sir Frederick Nicholson and his Assistant, Mr. Govindan, had a heart and great sympathy for the people; they lived among them; they helped them very much. There is now very little paternal sympathy on the part of the Government for the people. Next, there is want of expert knowledge. An expert who was doing some work for the benefit of the department was somehow or other sent away. As my hon. Friend Mr. Shetty told us, an officer who has no expert knowledge is posted. Such officers conduct experiments and it is sheer waste of money. I need not go into details.

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

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“Then we have got the fishing trawler. Hon. Members will remember that a motion was brought forward in this House for Rs. 45,000 in connexion with this trawler. When a large number of Members of this House took objection to the motion, it was shunted aside. Later on a demand for about one lakh of rupees was brought forward and it was passed for getting this fish trawler. It is not a fishing trawler at all. It is now supposed to carry on experiments. The trawler was in Madras port for a long time. There was some difficulty in removing the trawler from Madras. The then hon. Minister had pleasant trips on it. This House has sanctioned a huge sum for overhauling it and for putting it in proper working order. It will never be in working order. The trawler is useless; it is not worth the metal for which it was bought. A committee has been appointed to enquire into the working of the department. I do not know if any member of that committee knows anything about all these technical matters . . .”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Member can continue his remarks regarding the qualifications of the members of the committee after lunch.”

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30) p.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The discussion on the adjournment motion has been disallowed by His Excellency the Governor under Rule 22 (2).”

The discussion on Mr. Saldanha's motion under Demand XXVIII—Fisheries was then resumed.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Sir, the Fisheries Committee that was appointed by Government to investigate and report on matters connected with the Fisheries department consists of members who are ignorant of the fishing affairs. There is not even one gentleman from the West Coast. It will be well to bear in mind that most of the fishing operations are conducted on the West Coast and unless there is somebody on the committee with some knowledge of fishing and the condition of the people there to a great extent, I think the members of the committee will be groping in the dark. Of course they may ask so many questions and get information on many of the points relating to fishing but they cannot get a knowledge of geography and history and common matter by means of witnesses, as the Simon Commission are trying to learn them. To appoint men to a committee who are absolutely ignorant of the conditions is absurd. What I say is there are men in the Ministerialist party who could have been appointed on the committee. For instance my hon. Friends Messrs. Schamnad and Shetty who belong to the West Coast would have enlightened the committee on various matters. And, what is the committee going to do in the future, I wonder. If it is not already too late I request the Government will at least now appoint two more Members of the Legislative Council or other gentlemen representing the people of the West Coast who have knowledge of the fishing industry on the committee. Another thing is, the committee have not visited the West Coast. The conditions in the West Coast are so peculiar that the members of the committee ought to have gone and seen them for themselves. There are a large number of people there who take part in fishing operations and it is therefore necessary that the committee should have visited that place and taken more evidence. Another defect in the working of the committee was that much of evidence that could be obtained was not forthcoming because the people who were invited to give evidence were not paid travelling allowance. I have

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[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

known people who were unwanted before the Simon Commission being paid handsomely. The fishermen in South Kanara are very poor and if they are not paid travelling allowance they will not be able to go before the committee to give evidence. I believe the members of the committee are paid their travelling allowance and there is no reason why when the people are poor and could not afford to incur their own expenditure they should not be paid travelling allowance when they come to give evidence. I know the Director of Industries deserves to be sympathized in such matters. We cannot expect him to be an expert in everything relating to fishing. He has done his utmost so far as he could go. Why should Government start this trawler business when there is not in India a community of fishermen or capitalists who would take to deep-sea fishing? As a matter of fact, one trawler is not sufficient to carry on fishing operations and several more are necessary. On the coast of Kanara there are a number of fishing boats which go far off into the sea. Why not improve their condition and encourage them by aiding them with capital?

"Another grievance of these people I have to bring to your notice is that there are too few fish-curing yards on the West Coast. I recently travelled along the coast from Mangalore. One has to go 23 miles before reaching a fish-curing yard from Suratkal to Adaisar. Now, the Fisheries department, I am told, is co-operating with the local boards in order to force the fishing people to take their fish for curing purposes to fish-curing yards, with the aid of some provisions in the Local Boards Act, under which they have to take out a licence from the taluk boards for curing. My submission is that this is a home industry and a cottage industry and why should not these people be permitted to cure their fish in their own places instead of compelling them to go 23 miles or 20 or 15 miles for curing their fish? It is really a great hardship. I hope the hon. Minister and the Director of Fisheries will look into the matter and see that necessary steps are taken to stop this infliction on the poor people. I am sure the Government will give a poor explanation for keeping the trawler *Lady Goschen*. It is said that it is laid up at Bombay—I do not know with what illness or for what other purpose. It is true that something like a lakh of rupees has been spent on it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I hope on account of the recent illness of the hon. Member, Dr. Mallayya will impose a time-limit on his speech."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I doubt very much whether the Fisheries Committee will enlighten us on this matter, because they are themselves groping in the dark and will only end in darkness. If they want to keep the department, let them keep it. I am not against keeping it, but let it be for the benefit of the masses. Let the Fisheries department be not closed if it can be of any educative value to the people. Why should not people be trained in curing fish? So far only half-a-dozen apprentices have been trained in the Chaliyam factory and if you can turn out experts from this institution it will be a great benefit to the people. Therefore I will not deery any amount of deficits or losses on account of this provided the masses are benefited and provided you educate and train more people on a large scale for the benefit of the masses."

* Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Saldanha. I am told that the Fisheries department is responsible for restricting the supply of salt and

[Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib] [25th March 1929]

thereby causing inconvenience and raising the price of salt. For instance, salt is not allowed to be brought to Kasaragod and to such other small ports by Manjis, Palemars, etc., as before. Formerly it was being brought to these places in such boats but for some reason or other now it was to be brought only by trains.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the schools for the fishermen community, I had asked some of the departmental officers to start some in important places on the West Coast, but strange to say in most of the places where schools are wanted, no school has been started. The existing schools are neglected, no encouragement is given and nothing is taught that will be useful to the fishermen boys in their after-life. Only what is taught in the taluk board schools is taught in these schools also. Then what is the need for these special schools? They ought to teach special subjects in these special schools."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I wish to know whether the subject of education of fishermen boys is included in the grant."

MR. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"Yes, Sir, Rs. 16,800 is being spent for the Training Institute at Calicut. But what is the training given in this institute? Nothing worth mentioning. There is one carpenter in the institute, it is true. He does not teach anything more than they do at home. It will be something if the boys are taught boat-making or net-making better than they are taught in their houses. Then, Sir, a sum of Rs. 54,000 is spent for special schools for fisherfolk. After all what is it that is taught there? Only the three R's that are generally taught in the taluk board schools. Thus in my opinion the whole sum is wasted. Something which will be useful for fisherfolk in their after-life must be taught in such schools."

"Then again some officers of the department unnecessarily interfere in local affairs. I had proposed in the Assembly to convert the Trikanad railway station into a pakka station. But as the station was in a big curve and gradient it could not be done, now the station has been removed to Katikulam within a mile to the north in the same village. There are two parties in the village. The officers of the department aided one of the parties and so they created a faction among the people. The argument of the officers concerned is that there is a fish-curing yard at Trikanad and therefore the station must be there only. But the new station is within one mile only. What difference will this make to the fish trade or anything else?"

* MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—"On a point of order, Sir, my hon. Friend raises the question of the closing of the flag station in connexion with this motion. I fear he is not in order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think it is relevant in so far as it will reduce the cost."

* MR. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"Sir, in other places such as Kasaragod, Kumbala, Manjeshwar, etc., the railway stations are beyond 2 or 3 miles from the fish-curing yards, while in this place the station is only within a mile. You can imagine how much inconvenience will arise from this. Are they trying to bring the stations near the yards or the yards near the stations in those places?"

"Then with regard to the *Lady Goschen* I can say that also is a failure. I am a member of the Fisheries Advisory Committee. I had visited the trawler in the harbour with the Minister. We found it quite unfit for

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the purpose for which it was intended. It is not fit for fishing. It was a condemned vessel given over to this Government. When it was brought here it was found to be quite useless. Large sums of money are being spent on it year after year and even now it is not fit for fishing. The primary purpose for which it was purchased was to teach deep-sea fishing. In order that deep fishing may be usefully taught Government will have to give loans to the fisherfolk to buy fishing boats and nets. The cannery at Chaliyam is also a failure. Of course, I see the Fisheries department is still in its infancy. I make all these suggestions so that the department may carry out these proposals."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It is true that there is a great deal of complaint with regard to the rate of the salt duty in the fish-curing areas. The duty rose from 6 annas to 10 annas. In 1924, when the control of the fish-curing yards was transferred from the Salt department to the Fisheries department, the duty had to be increased from 10 annas to Re. 1-4-0 in order to meet the recurring expenses due to this transfer. Last year, the Fisheries Advisory Committee, I think in December 1927, recommended for the reduction of the salt duty, but as it is a question affecting finance, it has been referred to the Fisheries Committee to see whether the recommendation can be carried out without detriment to the revenue.

"With regard to the trawler about which so much was said by Mr. Saldanha, the vessel was purchased in 1926 and it is to be utilized in Madras. It is to be used to see whether fishing in deep waters is possible here. It was purchased for this purpose and not for teaching the fishermen boys in the matter of fishing."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" How many times did it go out of order ?" (Laughter.)

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I am coming to that. The problem of conducting fishing experiments by the trawler is engaging the attention of the authorities and they are collecting materials in connexion with that and therefore it is too early to say anything on that. A sum of nearly 76 thousand rupees is necessary to equip *Lady Goschen* for deep fishing in deep waters and hence much caution is necessary in this enterprise. Sir, in Ceylon also the commercial undertakings by Government in this respect have been reduced as here. Then, Sir, this question of *Lady Goschen* trawler is also one of the items to be examined by the Fisheries Committee. And Mr. Saldanha said that I must take a firm stand regarding that. I shall certainly take as firm a stand as I can in the matter after getting the findings of the committee. With regard to the question that no travelling allowance was given to those who gave evidence, I must make it plain that the committee went to the areas where the fishermen are numerous, and so those who came there would have to incur only a very small expenditure and so they were not paid travelling allowance. With regard to the complaint about the schools it is the intention of Government to transfer these schools to the Education department."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Very good, and the fish also."

** The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Mr. Schamnad complained about the removal of the flag station at Trikanad. I understand that some M.L.C.'s were more responsible for it than the officers of the department. As regards the other matters, I shall try to do what I can."

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* **Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA** :—"I have been listening to the speech of the hon. the Minister for Development very carefully. He is a stranger to fish and we can expect very little from him, as he has not the experience. The first thing is the general complaint about the disabilities of the fishermen on the West Coast. Then, Sir, it is also the fact that Government insist that the yards should be 4 to 6 miles from each other. Sir, I am told that the contractors at these yards are engaging not fishermen, but men of other communities, even Brahmans. (Hear, hear and laughter.) That is the complaint. Why should Government deprive the poor fishermen of these places of their legitimate profession? Then again, the enhancement of the price of salt for curing is another stumbling block in the way of propagation of this industry. I do not see any reason why Government should not advocate the use of brine or concentrated solution of salt from the sea so long as it is used for a legitimate purpose. If Government want to imitate western countries, it is high time that they should concentrate fish-curing in their hands and run the enterprise themselves. But to insist on their being taken to the yards and also to forbid these poor people from curing the fish in their own yards is a hardship for which the Government have no excuse at all.

"Then, coming to the Fisheries Committee, Sir, I am afraid that, with the exception of Dr. Sundara Raj, all the gentlemen on that committee know very little. In fact, they know nothing about fish, no more than my hon. Friend the Minister for Development. (Hear, hear.) It is no use this committee prolonging its existence any longer. I should think that it is sheer waste of Government money to prolong this committee and to allow it to go over to the various places. I am against this committee being allowed to continue because it would only mean postponement of this question for some time more.

"Then coming to the trawler *Lady Goschen*, I am afraid the Government have made a very very bad bargain. When she was purchased there was no useful life in her at all. She was purchased from Dundee and brought down here. Within six months the boilers burst. A question was asked by my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha and he was told that the boiler did not burst but tubes burst. You do not expect the big boiler with its big body to burst. Then it was sent down for repairs to Colombo, and was repaired at a cost of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000 in the Colombo harbour. Even now I do not think it is working well, and it is high time you sink her into the bay and get a new one. Instead of wasting Rs. 8,000 for six months or eight months, I do not see any reason why you should not purchase a new trawler. But it is questionable whether this deep-sea fishing is going to benefit anybody. Your fishermen won't go to the deep sea for getting their fish. They get all their fish in shallow waters. Then, what is the use of this deep-sea fishing unless you want to show to the public that you are conducting a big experiment and unless you want to get the crew from other places and provide them with posts and salaries. You are simply wasting public money which you may very usefully utilize for improving the economic and social conditions of the fishermen. I am told that numbers of these poor fishermen are leaving the country for Trinidad, Bombay and other places. It is therefore high time that the Government took up the matter in their own hands and carried out the suggestions made by hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha."

* **Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI** :—"Mr. President, the annual report shows that they have had a great windfall this year because they could get about

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Rs. 3,97,614 under pearl fisheries. This is the biggest amount of money they could ever get since 1899 or so. With all that, this seems to be only less than a lakh, about Rs. 94,000 or so. That shows that they are spending their money with both hands; as my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha put it, they are wasting money on supervision as they are doing in all other departments. The direction itself costs Rs. 35,000 and superintendence costs Rs. 1,15,000 or so. In this department there are two or three items which are very useful and which I do not condemn at all. One is the fisheries training institute. That is one thing which would be very useful if properly managed and carried on. The other thing is demonstration, demonstration of fish-curing, preparing guano oil and preparing fish manures and that sort of thing. That would be a useful thing if properly managed and carried on without extravagance. The question of extravagance seems to be altogether out of consideration of the Government. Also, whenever they start a business like this, they want to have a monopoly of it and get control of the whole under the management of the Government and they want always to make a lot of money out of this. For instance, fish-curing, as was mentioned by an hon. Member, was done as a cottage industry previously. Now the Government wants to introduce new methods and give proper training to people who are engaged in this fish-curing. That may be very laudable and necessary also. Instead of demonstrating how new methods can be taken up and introduced in regard to this matter and leaving the fishermen with that special knowledge so that they can apply it to their own trade as before as a cottage industry, the Government want all these people to come there and cure their fish in the special yards set up by the Government. That is really a hardship. They have to travel miles and miles before they can reach these yards and they have to do the whole fish-curing there. That will not be to the benefit of the fishermen. They feel it very much as a grievance.

“Another is thing this. The salt is to be given at a nominal charge or no charge at all if the Government want really to encourage this fish-curing; and if they want to encourage these fishermen to do it on a large scale, they must encourage them by giving salt free or at a nominal rate. Instead of that, as has been admitted by the hon. the Minister, the sale rate of salt has been increased. First it was only six annas, then it went up to ten annas and so on. Gradually they increased it. For getting complete control of these people, the Government want to resort to these methods. They want the help of the taluk boards, the unions and everybody in the world, and they may want the police also by and by to compel these people to go to these fish-curing yards paying the necessary fees and to do it there alone and nowhere else. That is a real hardship which the Government have to consider. With regard to the demonstration, in the report it is clearly stated that very little money is granted and that is a crying need. After all, they are not making much from this fish-curing. The net profit of the working of all the fish-curing yards amounted only to Rs. 3,494 against an expenditure of Rs. 4,000. That is only Rs. 4,000 they are making from these fish-curing yards after resorting to all these methods and after compelling these poor people to resort to the fish-curing yards. This sort of compulsion should be given up. It may be stated in reply that they have got special accommodation and special rooms prepared and special tanks constructed for these people which are very useful to them for doing this curing there. But what these people resent is that they have to leave their families and their children in their places and travel some miles before they could reach these

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yards. They would thus be deprived of the help which they were receiving from their families, and so this arrangement is of no benefit at all to the fishermen.

"Then, I do not know why the item of primary schools should come in here. If special education is given for the sons of fishermen, then that may be included in this item. But only ordinary primary schools are started and yet this department wants to run these primary schools also.

"As regards research work, and planning and testing various places preparing charts where particular sorts of fish are found, special fish or chank, fish, the temperature that is wanted, and the nature of the salt water that is required for special oysters and other fish is indeed a very important thing. No objection can be taken for a thing like that. Money may be spent for such things and they may be improved, but there must be economy everywhere, and without economy these things are likely to be mismanaged.

"With regard to giving of contracts, there should not be special favouritism shown to anybody at all. With regard to the Tinnevely chank fisheries, the report itself admits that such favouritism is shown. The report says:—

'Several merchants submitted tenders of which the highest was from Mr. Hem Chandra Kar, a former contractor who offered the high rate of Rs. 525-12-9 for full-sized Tinnevely district shells and Rs. 8 for undersized ones. The lowest was that of the Decca Industrial Union who offered only Rs. 350 for full-sized and Rs. 25 for under-sized shells. Government however sanctioned the sale to the Decca Industrial Union at the rate of Rs. 400 per 1,000 shells for a period of three years from 1st July 1927. The difference between the rates is nearly about Rs. 13,000 over the current season's catches which the Madras Government have forgone for the benefit of the Bengal workmen.'

"And so, they gave up a profit of Rs. 13,000 in favour of this industrial union as it is admitted in the report itself. And as a reason for that, it is stated that it is to benefit the Bengalee workmen that it was given to this union. That is not the proper thing to be done at all. I do not think this province is concerned with labourers in Bengal. They do not care for the labourers here, and there are so many of them. If a question is asked 'Why not you do something for the Bengal labourers?' the hon. Minister will get up and state 'We have nothing to do with the Bengal labourers, Sir. Our attention is confined only to the labourers in this province.' The whole secret of it is perhaps this. They wanted to benefit this special company started to serve certain interests against the interests of this and this Government gave up Rs. 13,000. That is not the way of doing business. Next time, no one will send you tenders because they know that the Government are determined to give even to the lowest tender, provided the officer in charge is quite satisfied with the application, even if it is the lowest figure. That ought to be condemned from every point of view. So, I submit, Mr. President, in these circumstances, great economy is to be exercised and waste should be prevented. This House would never object to such demonstrations being held with regard to fish-curing, preparing guano or any other thing. But if it is used only to oppress these fishermen and have a monopoly of it and make these people part with what they earn every day, would certainly be objected by hon. Members of this House. With these few remarks I commend this motion for the acceptance of this House."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

3-15
p.m.

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs. 8,69,600 for Fisheries be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the utter wastefulness of the Prema and Sunkesula fish ponds in the Kurnool

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district. I have personally inspected these places, Sir, and I find that it is not merely waste of expenditure from the Government exchequer, but it also affects very materially the well-being of the people locally. Recently, on the floor of this House I asked a question with regard to these two places, and in answer to that I was told that information was still coming; but one thing I was made aware of, namely, that these two ponds were established in 1912 and 1919 respectively. The Sunkesula pond was established in 1912 evidently, and the Prema pond in 1919. It is sixteen long years since the Sunkesula was established and it is now nine years since the Prema pond was established. But nobody, either locally or elsewhere, knows as to the exact scope of the business that is being done there. So far as I can see, there are some overseers, one overseer there and one overseer here, two watchmen and two fishermen, and at the pumping installation at Sunkesula charges for pumping in addition. I find that all that is done at Sunkesula is this, that with water pumped from the Tungabhadra the ponds are filled and certain fish are reared there. Whether these fish are supplied regularly for any purpose I am not aware of. It is quite possible that the answer would be that fish are being reared, so that they might be used in the local area in wells and ponds to prevent malarial germs being developed and things of that kind. With regard to the Sunkesula farm I wish to say that it is a waste in this way. It is the Tungabhadra water that is being taken to the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal which runs somewhere from Sunkesula to Cuddapah, and there might have been made a provision, without the pumping installation, to open a pond and incur less expenditure. Even that could have been welcome instead of this wasteful expenditure on Sunkesula. With regard to the public service that Sunkesula has rendered to the people, I have yet to know what it is, and I do not propose to comment upon that aspect of it, at present. But so far as the Prema farm is concerned, I have taken very good care to examine it carefully and I find that about 100 acres of wet cultivation suffer on account of it. It was established in 1919 and for all these nine years nothing has been done really. I visited the place and I found that one kind of fish gourami—I do not know how to pronounce it, I am not an expert—gourami is all that is reared, and even that did not thrive well. They have freshly filled tanks with fish, I understand, and the numbers recruited at the ponds are not encouraging. In one pond the number recruited is about 53, in another it is 109 or 110 or 116. There are six ponds of that nature. In one pond there is a different variety—I do not remember its name—but either of these varieties is not had for use in the locality so far as I know, but the Government have had to spend a lot of money upon it, and these 100 acres which were flourishing under agriculture have been allowed to suffer for these nine years, and the agriculturists are paying wet rates and growing dry crops. The Kurnool district and other sister districts generally are wanting in sources of water. The western side of Nallamalais is the only source wherefrom we are able to get springs, which water is much used for cultivation from time immemorial. To-day even that cultivation is not there, and men are obliged to grow dry crops. If there were some use out of it I may not have taken any objection to it. But there appears to be absolutely no use out of this farm standing there for nine years; that people should not know what is being done with it is a commentary upon the administration of that particular farm.

“As regards the Prema farm, I want the Minister to look into it very carefully. I was told that they wanted to try rearing trout and fish of that

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kind. These experiments are very good in the brains of experts. Let not experts have their fads at the cost of the people. Moreover, have these farm any value as places where some demonstration is given? I can understand the aquarium on the beach in Madras; there is some demonstration and people learn something by going there. But Sunkesula and Prema are situated in such places that nobody goes there. Sunkesula is 18 miles from Kurnool and Prema 13 miles from Nandyal, in the forests. They have neither educative value nor material value, so far as I can see. Even as having some scientific value, the department at Prema cannot claim any achievement. So far as I see, they have failed to grow anything there. If the Minister would go into these matters and carefully examine them and withdraw the Prema farm at any rate and try to shift the Sunkesula farm to a place where he can try on a more economic scale, it will be really to the advantage of both the district and the exchequer though to a small extent."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I second it."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"It is a local matter and I do not think many hon. Members including myself know much of the locality. I shall read a brief statement which I have got from the department itself:—

'(1) In 1915, the Honorary Director of Fisheries submitted a scheme for dealing with the permanent waters in the Nallamalai Hills and jungles which are notorious for a malignant type of fever from an anti-malarial point of view. The proposals were to construct ponds and hatcheries at two suitable centres for breeding larvicidal fish in large numbers and to stock all the permanent water holes and springs throughout the hills with this fish every year. The Government approved of the proposals and sanctioned a capital expenditure of Rs. 2,800 on the construction of ponds, hatcheries, store-heads, Assistant Inspector's quarters, etc., and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,000. Two ponds were accordingly opened in 1918 and stocked with larvicides. In 1923, the Director of Fisheries submitted proposals for constructing four additional fish ponds at the farm for the following reasons:—

'(a) The Sunkesula fish farm in the Kurnool district had not sufficient water area for the rapidly multiplying gourami, a valuable kind of exotic food fish and it was necessary to relieve the congestion felt at the farm by constructing additional ponds at Prema if the fish was to be grown in large numbers for purposes of stocking the inland waters in the Presidency, the fisheries of which are owned by the department; and

'(b) The existing two ponds at Prema were inadequate to raise the necessary quantity of larvicidal fish to deal with all the waters in the Nallamalais.

'(2) The additional ponds were intended thus to be utilized for growing larvicidal fish as well as gourami, the processes being not mutually exclusive. The proposals involved a capital expenditure of Rs. 5,700 for the construction of four fish ponds, cost of apparatus, etc., and an annual recurring cost of Rs. 700. The proposals were sanctioned in 1925. The additional ponds were brought into working order in 1927-28 and in that year two of them were stocked with gourami with satisfactory results. (Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Most unsatisfactory results.) There are thus six ponds at the Prema farm in which both larvicidal fish and gourami are reared.

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‘(3) The Director has stated that the expenditure on the farm on an average is Rs. 100 per mensem or Rs. 1,200 per annum and that the total expenditure up to date from the commencement on the upkeep of the farm was Rs. 3,915. No receipts have been obtained from the farm. It is, however, anticipated that an annual income of Rs. 200 would be obtained by the sale of gourami after they attain marketable size (two years after introduction in the ponds) in the Nandyal market.

‘(4) Since 1920-21 the several water holes all over the Nallamalais have been annually stocked with larvicides grown at the two ponds in the farm. In 1920-21 all permanent waters in the Bairuti, Pechervu and Gundalakamma ranges and one spring in the Chelma range were stocked with larvicides. (Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao ; Malaria reigns supreme.) In 1921-22 nearly 20,000 larvicides were put into water holes in eight of the forest ranges. In 1922-23 55 water holes were stocked with 126,000 larvicides, in 1923-24 51 water holes with 19,400 larvicides, in 1924-25 42 water holes with 19,300 larvicides, in 1925-26 62 water holes with 26,000 larvicides and in 1926-27 37 water holes with 14,200 larvicides. It is reported that these stocking operations have resulted in an appreciable reduction of malarial infection in the tract. The total expenditure on the maintenance of the farm up to date was only Rs. 3,915 and this small expenditure has been more than justified. Now that the four additional ponds have been completed larvicidal fish in larger numbers could be grown and stocked in the water holes for destroying the mosquito larval. Gourami will also be grown for distribution to the neighbouring fresh water tanks and rivers and their sales will bring in some revenue.

‘(5) Attention is solicited to page 62 of the administration report for 1927-28 from which it will be seen that objections were raised by the ryots of the adjacent village, Kadamala Kalva to the diversion of the Bhiravani spring water to the fish ponds on the ground that the wet ayacut area under the spring suffered from want of water. The Director has made the following remarks regarding the objections :—

“ The matter was fully investigated with the aid of the Revenue officers and it was found that there was not much force in the objection. The period when the ryots will be requiring water for these lands lasts only from the end of July to October. This is the rainy season in these parts ; the ponds will not be requiring much water then and the ryots’ interests need not suffer. Since, however, we have had no actual experience in the matter, the question of water supply will carefully be studied during the ensuing wet weather and remedial measures, if they prove to be necessary, will be suggested. latter.

“ The objects of the farm are twofold—to breed larvicidal fish for stocking the water holes on the Nallamalais to reduce the incidence of malaria and to breed gourami for distribution to the inland waters, the fisheries of which are controlled by the department and for sale in the surrounding tracts, specially in the Nandyal market. The former object has been to a certain extent realized and the department claims to have brought about a reduction in malaria. The additional ponds were taken over only in 1927 and the second object—the breeding of gourami—has just been taken up.

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“The benefits from the health point of view of the operations of the department in introducing larvicidal fish are not shown in terms of rupees, annas and pies; but can easily be appreciated.”

“We are awaiting a further report from the Director and when it is received it will be placed before the House. In these circumstances I think the hon. Member will withdraw his motion.”

The motion was put and negatived.

The demand was put and adopted.

DEMAND XXIX—LABOUR INCLUDING FACTORIES.

3-30
p.m.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

‘that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 23·87 lakhs for Labour including Factories.’

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“I move—

‘that the allotment of Rs. 81,500 for Inspector of Factories be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“The object of this motion is to condemn the present practice of prosecuting or rather persecuting the owners of petty factories which are often not much bigger than rural or cottage industries for trivial offences such as failure to whitewash walls or to repaint wood-work and getting heavy fines imposed at courts of magistrates who have not the courage to displease Government. Sir, we have been familiar with this state of affairs when we open a daily newspaper. We read the proprietor of a certain factory has been fined and not only that he was once fined on various grounds. These offences are grouped together and the total of such fines comes to several hundreds of rupees in each case. Sir, the gravamen of the charge against the proprietors of these so-called factories—I shall presently explain what these factories really are—is that they have committed some trivial infringements. Often, it is for not painting the iron bars of windows or whitewashing the walls. Very often it is nothing more serious than that. And for these lapses each proprietor of the so-called factory has in the course of the year to pay a heavy penalty. Sir, I need not tell you how the imposition of these heavy penalties for these paltry offences, if offences they really are, sets a premium on the non-starting of more factories in this province. Now let us see what these factories are. They are generally either rice-hulling factories or the groundnut decorticators. More often it is a factory which does both the kinds of work in the off season and on season and very many of these factories are idle for most part of the year. Well, the spirit of competition is so great that in the river-side villages you will find a very large number of factories so close together, so small and so starving for want of work that they hardly make a living and very many factories change hands rapidly. Such is the financial aspect of these so-called factories. And these factories moreover are employers of very very limited amount of labour—hardly 20 or 30 people are employed in these factories. The factories are such that there is not much real danger to employees as they are in cases of highly developed Western countries and dangerous occupations like acid-making and others and yet the solicitude of Government towards these small concerns is such that these are magnified into ‘factories.’ So far as penalties are concerned these are treated like the proprietors of big concerns like Messrs. Parry & Co. and other big concerns in this province.

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[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

Sir, it is common knowledge that the future development and prosperity of this country will depend upon largely increased use of machinery. Of course, there are several kinds of machinery from simple machines like a sewing machine or a typewriter or very complicated machines giving employment to thousands and thousands of people. But as regards the Factories Act, of course, the sewing machine is excepted as also the typewriter. But anything a little more complicated than that comes under the rigour of this Factories Act. Sir, you will find in Western countries the prosperity of the nation is almost synonymous with the increased use of machinery. We are told that in Japan almost every house has got many labour-saving appliances and the national Government there having made a national concern of the supply of cheap electrical power to almost the remotest cottages even in the outlying villages of Japan, you find that every housewife is able to command the use of up-to-date electrical appliance and cheap power with the result that, if the husband wants to repair a shoe or mend some clothes, there is a sewing machine there to which electric power is tacked on and in a few minutes the work is done. So also for household work such as grinding flour and other things in Japan they have gone in for electric power very largely. But unfortunately the present Labour Commissioner has not gone to Japan. These officers are made of a different stuff with the result Japan is increasing in prosperity so wonderfully while we are sinking lower and lower industrially. Therefore, if the fact that the Government is really solicitous about our industrial advancement is true, it is high time they did not treat the owners of so-called factories in this severe manner. Of course, there are machinery in which very small lapses or inattention on the part of the management will involve the unwary employees in immediate loss of life but most of these single machinery like decorticators, flour mills and all these things do not involve any such danger and ordinary precautions of covering the fly-wheel and dangerous parts is quite enough for all practical purposes. Not painting the iron bars or whitewashing the walls is not going to involve these operatives in any great danger to life. Therefore I plead for a little more humane treatment for these so-called factory owners and thereby encourage the increased use of machinery in this country. Sir, with these words I move the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The motion is lost for want of a seconder."

* Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for Direction be reduced by Rs. 100' to point out the department's indifference to the educational interests of the Adi-Dravida girls.

"The Labour Department was created in 1919. There is a report—I have got the report in my hand—from which I see that this department has been devoting all its attention to the educational needs of the boys only because I find that there have been 994 schools but no mention is made of any school for girls. There have also been a number of scholarships educational and industrial. I find 550 scholarships and 220 fee remissions and 110 scholarships for industrial training and there are other scholarships. But only two have been set apart for Adi-Dravida girls. Again about the hostels there are two Government hostels, one in Masulipatam and one at Madras. Even there hostel for girls was never thought of. So, Sir, I should like to know whether the department is there only for looking after the education of boys

[Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi] [25th March 1929]

or is it for both. Coming to the educational department I find there is no special scholarship at all for the Adi-Dravida girls. Out of the 27 scholarships for unmarried Hindu girls, the Principal of the Lady Willingdon College has been good enough to take away two scholarships and award them to the Adi-Dravida girls because there have been a good number of applications from the Adi-Dravida girls. Many applications had to be refused. And also there is no hostel accommodation even here in the City of Madras for Adi-Dravida girls. I do not want in a city like this that a separate hostel should be kept for Adi-Dravida girls. But for want of a good hostel even for the girls of other communities Adi-Dravida girls had to suffer for want of accommodation. Of course in the mufassal the difficulties are very many. In the mufassal the people are not prepared to have Adi-Dravida girls in a common hostel. I feel it is very necessary for the Labour Department to open hostels at least for a number of districts in one place so that the Adi-Dravida girls of the mufassal may have the benefit of higher education. The department has not realized the importance of higher education for girls of the backward community. I need not point out to the hon. Members that if better sanitation, better health or even social reform is to result from education, it should come from the educated women of the community. Of course there are scholarships ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7 given by the Labour Department for both boys and girls. But the Principal of the Lady Willingdon College writes to say that no application has been received for these scholarships because 7 rupees is not enough for the girls for their boarding and lodging charges and so nobody has applied for these scholarships of Rs. 3 and Rs. 7. I therefore respectfully submit that both the Labour Department and the Educational Department must devote at least so much attention to the girls as they have been doing for the boys all along."

* Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—"I rise to second the motion moved by the Deputy President. Sir, the percentage of girls who are literate is below half a per cent. At present there is very little facility afforded to the Adi-Dravida girls to get higher education in Madras. I know that the few Adi-Dravida girls that have come from the mufassal are asked to walk from Mylapore to Triplicane (Lady Willingdon College), a distance of more than a mile. In the scorching sun to walk that long distance is really a hard job and they equally suffer during the rainy days. Some time back I interpellated in this House as to the convenience given to the Adi-Dravida girls about conveyance for going to the school. These girls who come from the mufassal are put to great hardship. The hon. Minister for Education told me that he would look into the matter and I do not know what he has done. Sir, the first step, I think, must be to see that Adi-Dravida girls are given facilities to get higher standard of education both in Madras and the mufassal. I am sure that the Home Member will give this matter his considered attention."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, I am glad that the hon. the Deputy President raised this question because she raised a debate on the same question this time last year on the Labour budget. On the 31st March 1928 there were as many as 1,179 schools started by the Labour Department. These were meant both for boys and girls. The hon. Member is wrong in thinking that these were only for boys. But unfortunately the number of boys that come to the school is greater than the number of girls that come to the school. Actually there were 36,885 boys and 5,914 girls

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reading in the schools. But that is not due to any want of accommodation or accommodation being refused to girls. It is due to the apathy of the classes themselves to take advantage of the education. As far as the boys are concerned they are very keen but are not so keen or ready in sending their girls to schools. As to scholarships, this year more scholarships have been provided. With regard to secondary education we have provided for 35 scholarships at Rs. 15 per mensem and 15 for college classes at Rs. 25 per mensem. So perhaps the result may be better next year and perhaps more girls will take advantage of the facilities that have been afforded by the department. Coming to the question of hostels it is not easy to open hostels for only one class of people like the depressed classes. I think it must be possible to take these people into the hostel at the Willingdon College when that is completed."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for Direction by Rs. 100."

The motion was put and lost.

* MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the motion which stands in my name, namely,

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'that the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for Direction be reduced by Rs. 100'

for discussing the necessity for depressed class Christians being brought within the sphere of the Labour Commissioner.

"I think, Mr. President, it is admitted by all that one of the most laudable activities of the Government is the Labour department. By means of this Labour department they are trying in an effective manner to bring about the social and economic upliftment of the depressed classes. The sphere of operations of the Labour department extends to finding house-sites for the depressed classes, the digging of wells for the provision of water-supply, making up of paths and channels and such other ways and means of communication and last but not least the provision of scholarships for education. But into the good work has crept a little rift which goes to diminish the importance and benefit of the Labour department. Among the depressed classes there is a section of Christians which is denied the privileges though in every other matter the conditions are nearly the same. Economically the Christian depressed classes are in the same position as the Hindu depressed classes. They are equally backward in the matter of education; they are equally backward in the matter of economic conditions; they are equally backward in their level and standard of life; they are equally backward in the conditions and circumstances in which they lead their daily lives. Even as regards social matters, the disabilities which attach to the Hindu depressed classes apply with equal stringency to the Christian depressed classes. • Certainly in a Brahman Agraharam, no difference is made between the Hindu depressed classes and the Christian depressed classes. As a matter of fact, the difficulties to be overcome are the same. Under these circumstances, it would be obvious that whatever concessions, whatever privileges, are offered by Government to the Hindu depressed classes they should be extended to the Christian depressed classes also. As a matter of fact, we find provision made for a number of scholarships and concessions for the depressed classes and yet the gazette notification declares and lays down that these scholarships are not open to members of the Christian depressed classes. Why and wherefor is it that this difference should be made? When the

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

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economic conditions of both these people are the same, when the social difficulties and stigma to which these people are subject to are the same, I do not see any reason whatsoever why Government should make this distinction at all. After all this difference of Hindu and Christian sits lightly on the depressed classes themselves. I know cases where there is a Hindu father and a Christian son and vice versa. The Hindu father goes to his temple and the Christian son goes to the Church. This is the only difference and in other respects, that is socially and economically, they stand on the same level. And yet the son of a Hindu depressed class father is entitled to a scholarship but this privilege is denied to the son of a Christian depressed class father. I know, Sir, that this Government is pledged to religious neutrality and I am sure all the hon. Members of this House will agree with me that in a country like India where there are so many communities and creeds it is important that the Government should maintain scrupulously not only religious neutrality but also make any notions or suggestions of favouritism for members of any particular religious creed disappear (Hear, hear). The Labour department is allowed to grant a scholarship to a Hindu depressed class boy and if he becomes a Christian during the tenure of that scholarship he is deprived of it. Is it to this kind of religious neutrality that the Government stand pledged? On the other hand this action of the Government in putting a ban or stigma on a particular class, would give room to the suspicion that the Government are prepared to grant certain favours to members of a certain religious persuasion and that the same would be taken away from the members of another religious persuasion. I submit that it was far from the intention of the Government to make such differences and that they are not aware of these actual conditions. I believe that these facts are only to be stated for the hon. the Home Member to consider the situation which arises from the present position and decide that scholarships, concessions and privileges which are given to the members of Hindu depressed classes should also be given without any sort of distinction whatsoever (but subject only to merit) to members of the Christian depressed classes as well.

"I know that some Hindu depressed classes friends are likely to differ from me. They may have some feeling over the matter. But I appeal to them and say that it would be a more generous, a more broad-minded policy if they joined hands with the Christian depressed classes and ask that sufficient scholarships be granted to the benefit of the Hindu depressed classes and Christian depressed classes, so that the whole community might share the benefits which are conferred by the Government. Such a policy will lead to a quicker, a readier, and more effective upliftment of the whole community than a narrow-minded policy which may for the present give some benefits but which in the long run will work against the upliftment of the whole community."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this motion. My object in doing so is not in any way to curtail the concessions now available for the amelioration of the depressed classes. Sir, the department has been doing very great good and all the political parties are agreed in the matter of extending facilities for the intellectual, social and political upliftment of the depressed classes and the reason for this is that no one community should be a drag on any other community. Sir, during the past 12 or 15 years, I have been an eye witness of the excellent, ameliorative work done in the Tanjore district for the

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upliftment of the depressed classes. The landless have obtained lands under the darkhast rules and the people who were living in miserable hovels have been given house-sites. Many schools have been opened by the Labour department and the people who were not admitted into other schools are now running schools near a cheri with the result that the caste people who have not facilities in the immediate neighbourhood take advantage of the Labour school and send their children there. In the matter of digging wells also a great deal has been done by the Labour department with the result that the depressed classes are now much better situated with regard to education and other activities than they were before. If I plead that the same facilities be extended to the Christian depressed classes, it is because I know that my friends will not grudge this small community also being raised to the same standard of efficiency as the other depressed community. I am speaking from experience and I am sure that my Swarajist friends will agree with me when I say that these Christian depressed classes have not the sympathy of their caste Christian brethren. This is especially the case in the southern, caste-ridden districts. Unfortunately, as the hon. the Chief Minister says, the missionaries and people like myself have been crying hoarse on very many occasions pointing to the noble, laudable example set us by some Hindu caste people in setting aside all their caste prejudices and trying to raise them socially and intellectually. The missionary, Sir, tries his little best and as my friend pointed out, his activity cannot go far for the simple reason that after the War all the Missions with the exception of the American Missions have been very hard hit.

"In the matter of schools it is very difficult for special schools to be opened for these depressed classes, and in the matter of other schools which exist, admission is bound to be limited. As regards scholarships the fact that those who have embraced Christianity are debarred from holding scholarships operates very prejudicially with the result that even after a number of years there will be left a small section of the depressed classes very very backward and perhaps still further depressed than before. Sir, the Government are no doubt pledged to neutrality and the very first clauses in the constitution drawn up by the All-Parties Conference is the recognition of the rights of conscience and of minorities and this is accepted by politicians of different schools of thought. Therefore I think that by retaining this kind of differentiation, on the basis of religion, with regard to scholarships, this creation of distinction, between man and man, on account of his creed, a principle is being kept up though it is opposed to the enlightened and liberal views of politicians of different schools of thought. It is not fair to penalise a man for the simple reason he has changed his religion. Change of one's religion is a matter of conviction and because a man changes his religion he does not at once become free from those shackles or social fetters which previously bound him. He does not cease to be an untouchable. Rules framed of late by the Educational Department regarding the matter of scholarships now under discussion show that the Government are not only violating their pledge of religious neutrality but are actually imposing a penalty on a person for the simple reason he has changed his religion. It might be thought that by changing their creed those people are free from oppression, but, as the Labour Commissioner and the hon. the Home Member are aware, these people even after the change of creed, are suffering from very great disabilities on account of the

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rigidity of social customs. Social customs die very hard in this country. Even though in some places people rise above caste prejudice and are prepared to brush aside evil social customs, it will take a very long time before these ideas penetrate into the rural areas. As a matter of fact all Christians are looked upon as casteless people. Therefore my friends belonging to the Hindu depressed classes need be under no uneasiness that by allowing the Christian depressed classes to have some scholarships they are going to lose the share they are entitled to. On the contrary, if organised attempts were made by the different parties, the Government would allot more funds every year for the elevation of these depressed classes. All the parties in this House agree to the proposal of allotting more funds for the benefit of the depressed classes. The only satisfactory way of realizing the object which the Government and the various political parties have in view, viz., the uplift of the depressed classes as a whole, is to remove the disabilities and to extend the benefits to all classes, Christians or non-Christians. For these reasons, Sir, knowing that I have the sympathy of the members of the different political parties in the House, I have great pleasure in seconding this motion."

* Rao Rahib R. SRINIVASAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, in opposing this motion, I wish to say that when a boy of Christian parentage in a Missionary Boarding School changed his faith to Muhammadanism, would the Missionary in charge have him in that school and give him help. People who left our house and community despising us as untouchables and embraced Christian or other foreign religion should not come back to claim a share of the concessions the Government are pleased to grant us. If they wish to come back let them denounce the foreign religion, we are prepared to receive them in open hands. Sir, they have separate church, priest, congregation, organization, marriage and funeral ceremonies, burial-grounds, civil law, and electorate. Further as our hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha used to tell us, the Christians are next in rank to the Brahmans in respect of educational advancement. (Laughter.) We have among us a converted Christian from the depressed classes as an elected member. He holds the position of a Secretary to one of the Ministers in the Legislative Council—the Christians are holding high appointments in the Government. Though there are among them Christians, who observe caste, yet when low caste Christian boys or girls advanced high in education and position the caste Christians come forward to marry them. I do not know why there should be a caste distinction among Christians.

"The conversion to Christianity has considerably weakened our community numerically. Was it not for the conversion our strength would have been very strong? We would have revolted against the untouchability and removed our disabilities. Conversion like leakage kept us down from our raising higher. Through various temptations and misrepresentations many of our men who had gone into the fold of a foreign religion, now find that it is advantageous for them to be with their brethren in the Hindu community.

"Any attempt to bring them under the protection of the Labour Commissioner should be resisted. Our Christian brethren have strong support of the missionaries and help from Western countries and America, whereas the Hindu depressed classes get no help from outsiders but from the Government.

"All we have to say is that we do not want to be mixed up with Christians. For, we fear that we will be utterly lost. We do not object to Christians dipping in our wells and walking on our paths.

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“Then again, Sir, the depression exists in a section in all communities, even among Brahmans and Muhamadans. I do not know what reasons our Christian brethren have to claim to share the benefits given to the Hindu depressed classes. They are jealous of our getting some contribution from the Government and attempt to stand in the way of our progress. Probably their object is to have an hold on us so that they may convert more and more of our people. Under these circumstances I oppose the motion.”

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Sir, I have always shown, while I was in Bombay as well as here, much sympathy for the depressed classes. The latest instance is my Bill to make the roads, etc., free for all classes of people. The reason for my introducing that Bill was that I found in a certain part of Malabar, Christians who once belonged to the depressed classes not enjoying all the civic rights enjoyed by other caste people. I have found such things in all parts of India. But among the Christians themselves I find depressed class men treated as depressed classes by the higher class of Christians. Christianity is incompatible with slavery or untouchability. But yet Christianity cannot make a revolution at once. It took, Sir, six centuries in the Catholic church to put down slavery in the Roman Empire. It again took another 500 years when the Roman Empire was overrun by barbarians to abolish the new slavery. Christianity evolved a new sort of society by implanting in the minds of its followers the true tenets of Christianity.

“But it was a question of time. I ask all educated classes to come to the help of the poor depressed class Christians for raising them from their low economic condition. If the whole or great part of India was Christian it would have been easy for these Christian depressed classes to rise high in their social status. But the difficulty is that the majority of the population of India are Hindus, and even the depressed class Hindus are sticking to their own caste distinctions and time-honoured customs. I know there are places where a certain depressed class Christian is not allowed to bring water from the well of another depressed class Christian. Such is the state of affairs in the Christian society. Some people may say that the religion is the cause for all this. Sir, I ask what can religion do? Religion has got its ideas. When men are imperfect what can the religion do? What is religion after all? It is a school for the imperfect—not a body of the perfect. I do not blame the Hindu community at all. I have got many friends among the Hindu communities, who want to elevate the depressed classes. I myself am a member of a Hindu depressed class mission society of which my hon. Friend Mr. A. B. Shetty is a member. We have to face facts as they are. After all, we cannot depend much upon the Christian missionaries for our finances. We have to depend upon our own men and women and money for our success. We get money from Europe only for the sake of missionary work. If this is spent for economic relief, no money will afterwards come from the Mission bodies. We have therefore to depend upon the Government. I therefore appeal again to my Hindu friends to show us some sympathy and support the cause of the poor depressed classes among us.”

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* Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“Sir, this motion raises two or three questions. One of them is whether the Government are maintaining the Labour department for supporting all classes of people on account of their religious and social difficulties or on account of their economic condition. If the Government desire to support a certain section of

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the people--the Hindu depressed class community—it is because they are regarded as untouchables in their own community and their economic condition is very backward. Therefore, Sir, the proposition comes to this: the Government must help only such people as have been regarded as untouchables, but the moment when any depressed class man of the Hindu community becomes a Christian he is no longer under those difficulties which he was experiencing as a Hindu depressed class man. Sir, we know that the moment a Hindu depressed class man leaves the Hindu community and becomes a Christian all the disabilities that he was undergoing have been removed, although his position economically might not have changed. If, Sir, the Government want to come to the rescue of certain communities simply because of their economic backwardness, and not on account of their social backwardness and other causes, I see no reason why any particular community alone should be helped. There are poor people among Christians, among Mussalmans and Hindus too. If that was the principle on which the Government were rendering help to backward communities, Government should have thought of the economic backwardness of poor people who have not been helped by their co-religionists. But in this case the question is very clear. The Government have come to the rescue and help of the depressed classes for the reason that they have in their own community been regarded as untouchables and they have not been given facilities which any other ordinary human being should have been given. That being so, I see no reason for the claim made by certain friends on behalf of the Christian depressed classes. As was pointed out by my Friend Mr. R. Srinivasan, the Christians have no reason to seek help from the Government because they are getting help from missionary bodies. After all it is the Christian missionaries who took away the people from the Hindu fold and it is the duty of the Christian missionaries to improve them economically, if they are economically backward. If they fail to do so, it is not the fault of the Hindu depressed classes. There was no reason for any depressed class man to change his religion for the reason of his troubles, and for the reason of his poverty. If he has changed his religion let him seek the patronage of Christian missionaries who converted him from his religion. As was pointed out by my Friend Mr. R. Srinivasan tons of money are coming from foreign countries, from England, from France and America. I know there are various instances in which the Christian boys in poor condition are taken up, educated and their condition is improved. The moment that our depressed class Christians want to share in the money that is allotted for helping the depressed classes people what will happen is that the amount of money will certainly not be enough to help the Hindu depressed classes. I therefore see no reason why my Christian friends instead of depending on themselves should come forward with a proposal to share the small allotment that has been made for the depressed people."

* Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—

கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்திற்கு ஆக்கம்.

“ஏற்கனவே தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட வகுப்பார்க்கென தொழிற் கம்மிஷனர் இலாக்காவில் வைத்திருக்கும் பணத்தில் பெரும் பகுதி மிஷனெரிகளுக்குப் போகிறதெனக் கூச்சலிட்டு வந்தோம். இப்பொழுது தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்கென பணத்தை ஒதுக்கினால் அது முக்கியமாக கிறிஸ்தவ மிஷனெரிகளுக்கே போய்விடும். மிஷனெரிகள் இதுவரையில் கிறி

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[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

ஸ்தவ மதத்தைச் சாராது தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட இந்துவாயிருக்கும் ஒருவனை B.A. வரைக்கும் படிக்க வைத்ததுண்டா? தங்கள் மதத்தில் சேர்ப்பிப்பதற்கே முதலில் ஒத்தாசை புரிவார்கள். பிறகு சேர்த்துவிடுவார்கள். யானும் அமெரிக்கன் ஆர்க்காட்டு மிஷனில் படித்தேன். என்னையும் கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்தைத் தழுவச் சொன்னார்கள். யான் மாட்டேனென வந்து விட்டேன். ஆகவே இந்த மோஷன் கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்திற்கு ஆக்கந்தேடுவதாயிருக்கிறது.

தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்கு கேடு.

“பாழாகப்போகும் இந்து மதத்தில்தான் ஜாதி கொடுமையிருக்கிறது. இது கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்திற்குச் சென்றதும் மறைகிறது. வெளியில் உத்தியோக முறையிற் செல்லும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களைக் கேட்டால் யாங்கள் கிறிஸ்தவர்களெனச் சொல்வீன், அவர்களை ஜாதி விசாரிப்பதில்லை. தற்போது தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்தவர்களை ஒன்று பிரித்தால் யாரேனும் கிறிஸ்தவர்களென்று சொன்னால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்தவனை, உயர்ந்த ஜாதி கிறிஸ்தவனைவென்று வினாவெழும். அதனால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவரென பிரித்தல் நலமன்று. யான் சிதம்பரத்திலிருந்து காலஞ்சென்ற பெரியார் திவான்பகதூர் சா. ராம. மு. மை. ராமசாமி செட்டியாரவர்கள் சிதம்பரத்தில் முனிசிபல் சேர்மனாயிருந்து விலகும் போது அவரைப் பாராட்ட ஆறுமுக நாவலரது சைவப்பிரகாச வித்தியாசாலையில் ஒரு கூட்டம் கூடியது. அது சமயம் யான் பெரிய பெரிய உருத்திராக்கமாலே தரித்துக்கொண்டு விபூதி உத்தாளனம் செய்து கொண்டு ஷே சைவப்பிரகாச வித்தியாசாலைக்குப் போனேன். சைவப்பிரகாசமானது எனது சிவவேடத்தைக்கண்டு வெறுத்துவிட்டது. அது சமையம் எனது பாடசாலையிலும் பிற பாடசாலையிலும் உபாத்திமார்களாயிருந்த கிறிஸ்தவ ஆதி திராவிடர்கள் ஷே கூட்டத்திற்காக ஷே சைவப்பிரகாச வித்தியாசாலைக்குப் போய் வந்தார்கள். ஆகையால் சைவப்பிரகாசம் சிவப்பிரகாசத்தை வெறுத்து கிறிஸ்தவ பிரகாசத்தைச் சேர்க்கிறது. கூடலூரிலிருந்து இச்சபையில் வந்திருக்கும் தலைவர்களறிவார்கள். எனது சகோதரர் ஒருவர் கிறிஸ்தவராகி ஐயங்கார் வீட்டினுள் தாராளமாகச் சென்றுவருகிறார். அந்த ஐயங்கார் வீட்ர் என்னைத் தமது திண்ணையிலுங்கூட சேர்க்கமாட்டார். இந்த நிலைமையில் கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்தில் உயர்வு தாழ்வு கற்பித்தல் நியாயமன்று.

“கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்குப் பணம் ஏராளமாக ஒதுக்கி வைக்கட்டும், எங்களுக்கு ஆட்சேபமில்லை. அவ்விஷயத்தில் எங்களுக்கு அனுதாபமுண்டு.

“தேர்தல் முதலானவைகளில் கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்குத் தனித் தொகுதி வைத்திருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், உயர் ஜாதி கிறிஸ்தவர் லாபம் அடைவதும் தாழ்ந்த ஜாதி இந்துக்கள் நஷ்டம் அடைவது மாகிறது. யான் மறுக்கிறேன்.”

§ Mr. F. E. JAMES :—“Mr. President, Sir, I must apologize for intervening in this discussion on a matter on which I have no authority to speak; but I wish to invite the House to return to the point from which it started. I am sorry for the turn which the debate has taken. As I understand it, the only matter in which the Christian depressed classes suffer in connexion with the administration of special benefits is in the question of scholarships. If I am

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not right, perhaps the Chief Minister will contradict me. If that is the only disability under which these particular classes suffer, I am of opinion that, while the motive in bringing forward this motion may be a correct and right one, the way in which it has been discussed in the Council is most unfortunate. I listened to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Srinivasan, with great interest and respect. I am altogether outside these matters because I am neither a Hindu nor a Muhammadan nor, I fear, a very good Christian. But the only question is, what is the particular reason which prevents a depressed class man, when he becomes a Christian, from enjoying the advantage of getting scholarships which I understand are being given by the Director of Public Instruction. That is the only matter now under consideration. (Voices: 'Labour department'.) Whether it is the Labour department or the Education department, it matters little. The disability is the same. We have got into an involved discussion in connexion with caste among Christians and the respective disabilities under which the Hindu and Christian depressed classes are suffering. I therefore invite the House to address itself to the simple question as to why it is that a depressed class man, when he becomes a Christian, never mind what his motive is, is deprived of the advantages of these scholarships. That is the only matter which was raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Thomas. I hope that, if the hon. Minister gives us a satisfactory answer, he will withdraw his motion without delay."

Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—" Mr. President, Sir, I really do not want to say many words after the speeches of so many of my hon. Friends who have given expression to just the same ideas to which I ought to have given expression. It is indeed unfortunate that my hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas should have brought forward this motion in this particular manner. If he had brought forward a motion suggesting to the Government that Christian depressed classes should be treated on the same footing as the Hindu depressed classes and that the Government should make some special provision for encouragement and improvement of their education among that community, I shall be the very first to support his motion and help him to carry the motion through the House. But the present motion will not certainly have our support for the simple reason that we are standing in the position of beggars and we cannot afford to be charitable. We are also fighting year after year that the Government should give us increased grants. My hon. Friend, Mr. James, referred to them as Christians among depressed classes. Properly speaking, he ought to have used the expression depressed classes among Christians, because when once these depressed classes become Christians they join that influential and educated Indian Christian community. If there are special difficulties among the sections of Christians on account of this untouchability, and they do not disappear in spite of their conversion to that religion, it is for that community to make provision for such a contingency or for the Government, on the pressure brought upon them by the community, to make provision. I think, Sir, as things stand at present, I would not be fair to the Christian Members to ask for a share of what little is given to us. That is the only point that I want to bring to the notice of this House. I find it very difficult to support the motion as it stands. No hon. Member of this Council either a Hindu or depressed class member will, for one moment, deny that the Christian depressed classes suffer probably under exactly the same difficulties as the Hindu depressed classes. The whole question is simply this; we are given a certain amount of money; we are, as I said, in the position of beggars and can we afford to be charitable? "

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* **Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur** :—"Sir, if I rise to speak on this motion, I do so with a knowledge of the actual practical conditions of the Christian depressed classes, so far as my district of Trichinopoly at least is concerned. I am afraid the Government are creating this distinction without a difference between the Hindu depressed classes and the Christian depressed classes. I ask, Sir, if a Hindu depressed class man changes his religion, does he change his professions? Is he not the least Hindu for being converted into a Christian? So far as I know—and I know them fairly intimately—there is really no distinction at all between a depressed class Christian and a depressed class Hindu. (Voices: 'Question.') The only difference is this; a depressed class Hindu gives up his brother as not belonging to his community the moment he becomes a Christian. That is the position to which the depressed class Christians are driven to. Among the depressed classes, if there is anybody at all who deserve encouragement in the hands of the Government, they are the depressed class Christians. I submit, Sir, that the depressed class Christians must receive support at the hands of the Government equally with the depressed class Hindus, because the Government being neutral in the matter of religion, they should not make any distinction. If the Government help the depressed class Hindu, they do so not because he happens to be a Hindu but because he is a depressed class man. I submit that the depressed class Christians should get the same help at the hands of the Government which the depressed class Hindu gets.

"There has been some discussion in the Council regarding missionaries. So far as they are concerned, their sphere is to look after the religious side of these people and certainly not the social or the economic condition of these people. This has been brought out in a very acute shape in Trichinopoly and the difficulties have not yet been solved though the problem rose more than five years ago. My hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, remarked that the Pope had ordered them to go back to the old conditions. The old conditions are: 'Leave the depressed Christians to themselves only and do not take them in the fold along with caste Christians.' This is the position in which the depressed class Christians are. The case of the depressed class Christian is the same as a depressed class Hindu. Both these classes should be treated equally without any distinction. I quite realize what the Members representing the Hindu depressed classes say, viz., that they do not want the depressed class Christians to share with them the boon. I for one would certainly support an increase in the amount allotted for uplifting both the communities. What I press before this House is that there should be no distinction between a depressed class Hindu and a depressed class Christian."

* **The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN** :—"Sir, I regret, as much as Mr. James did, the turn this debate has taken. But unfortunately in this country every debate, whether it concerns Christians or Muslims or Hindus, turns on this ever-recurring question of caste. I know the strong feeling that exists; when once these people become Christians, they get all the advantages of the Christian society. Because I know it for a fact that in villages the depressed class man, if he is a Christian, is allowed to the house of a caste Hindu while at the same time, the latter would deny access to his house to a Hindu depressed class man. As Mr. Saldanha remarked, the Christians themselves are adopting this system of boycotting the Christian depressed classes. But that I think is a thing in which the Christians themselves, following the religion of their great preceptor and saviour should abolish all these distinctions and

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see that these Christians are treated as real Christians. I know that, among the Protestants there is no such difference as there is among the Roman Catholics. This difference exists more among the Roman Catholics. My hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, set that matter at rest by telling their own class that it is not fair to the community to treat one Christian as different from another. The Hindu religion at least recognizes caste, whereas the Christian religion does not. Mr. President, I am sorry that I have had to digress from the main question. But I cannot help remarking that it is the caste intervention that is responsible for these differences and sooner that goes the better.

"Coming to this question, as far as the Labour Department is concerned, the ameliorative activities of the department are available to both the Christian and Hindu depressed classes. As Mr. James pointed out, the only distinction between these two communities is in the matter of scholarships. This matter was taken up sometime ago and it was decided that, as far as possible, scholarships should be given to the Hindu depressed classes because they are really more depressed than the Christians in spite of the difficulties pointed out by Christian Members. But the Christians are getting scholarships through the Educational Department; they are also getting scholarships through their missions which are largely aided by Government grants. That is the reason why this distinction about scholarship is being made between a Hindu and a Christian depressed class man. But there is no really no distinction at all between these two communities in the matter of other ameliorative activities of the Labour Department. I hope that after these remarks of mine, my hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas, will withdraw his motion."

* Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—"In view of the remarks made by the hon. the Chief Minister I beg to withdraw my motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his motion? (Voices :—No; no.) Since there are dissentient voices I shall put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is—'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for direction by Rs. 100'."

The motion was put and lost.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"Mr. President, Sri, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for direction be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"My object is to discuss the work of the department with special reference to South Kanara. Sir, three main items of the work of the Labour Department call for the special attention of the department, viz., assignment of lands for house-sites, labour schools and co-operative societies for the depressed classes. I believe, it is also so in many other places that many of the waste lands have been given away by the Government to these people. Only third-class lands remain for which these people have to spend a good deal of labour and money. As a result of this, the depressed class people are not able to improve their lands assigned to them and they are also unwilling to pay assessment unless the lands are productive, because they think it will be waste of money. The consequence has been that every year a portion of the lands assigned to them have been resumed. Unless more facilities are given to these classes for bringing these lands under cultivation, these assignment of lands will not be of much benefit to them. It has been suggested that loans might be given to them under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists'

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Loans Act without restrictions as regards the minimum of Rs. 50. But, even for this Rs. 50 they will not be able to give sufficient security, they being mostly poor. Then again, it has been suggested that building materials might be given to them free to put up cottages. I think Government might very well waive assessment, say, at least for the first five or ten years, until these people are able to improve their lands and make them productive. I have made similar suggestions more than once in this House and I believe Government are considering this proposal.

"Regarding education, I think that it would be better if vocational bias to education is given to them rather than instruction in the 3 R's. Before schools are multiplied, it is better to give a vocational bias to education in the schools and many schools are suffering for want of adequate supervision at least in my district. There are 59 schools and the officers of this department are not able to look after them and they have asked for a Superintendent of the Secondary Training grade to superintend the schools.

"With regard to co-operative societies, I would suggest that special concession may be given to this class of people in the matter of interest and that penal interest also might be reduced. Another great evil, from which these people are suffering is the drink evil. It will be no exaggeration if I say that at least most of these people spend at least half their wages on drink. Special attempts are necessary to redeem them from the habits. I suggest that some one may be given for each district to do propaganda work."

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"I second the motion, Sir."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, the hon. Member has made a number of suggestions in his speech. I should like to say that those suggestions will be examined by the Commissioner of Labour and given effect to if possible."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I beg to withdraw the motion, Sir."

As the House did not signify its assent to withdraw the motion, the motion was put to the House and lost.

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to move—

*'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,300 for Commissioner of Labour—
i. Direction by Rs. 100'*

"Sir, in sponsoring this cut motion I propose to be brief in my remarks, for the simple reason that much light was shed on this topic not several months ago in connexion with, I believe, an adjournment motion with regard to the then recent railway strike in this province. Sir, at that time, one of the grave charges against the Labour Commissioner was that during those momentous and critical days, he was nowhere, at any rate, his activities were not known to the public. But, one would have hoped that with the lapse of so many months, the public would have been taken into confidence and some light would have been thrown into these dark corners. But, Sir, we have to confess that the world remains as ignorant to-day as it was when that discussion took place. Sir, it is said that the existence of this office of the Labour Commissioner is to ameliorate the condition of the millions, the dumb millions of the horny-handed sons of toil who have to make their living from day to day, and their number is as we all know very large even for this province. These millions are not making any extravagant demands upon the

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Government. It is not for Dominion Status or Independence they are crying. They are crying for bread and after waiting for months together, they had no other resort than the one they took to—I am referring to the railway strike—and they struck work and when they struck work, they did it in an orderly manner, a manner which would not have evoked any adverse comments in any modern civilized industrial country like England. Even long afterwards, these famished and hungry labourers did not resort to any acts of violence. They gathered together in groups and lay themselves across the railway line offering their bodies to be crushed to be treated with violence in the extreme form if need be, rather than injure a single human creature or any other of God's creatures. If there were exhibitions of violence, which every one in this province regrets, it must be remembered that such things came only at a later stage. After waiting patiently that the Labour Commissioner who is supposed to exist for their amelioration would have interfered, usefully interfered, beneficently interfered and after seeing that the Government, which in any civilized country would espouse the cause of the weak and poor men, were shamelessly siding with the capitalist Railway Company all these millions after thorough exasperation, some of them resorted to tactics which no doubt deserve condemnation at everybody's hands. It must also be remembered that these acts occurred at a much later stage in that protracted struggle, and at a time when the sobering influence of the leaders has been withdrawn by their having been clapped into jails. But, Sir, we have not yet come to the last chapter, and I am debarred from dealing with those cases in detail, as some of them are yet *sub judice* and so I say, we have not yet come to the last chapter yet. During all these months, we had asked what was the Labour Commissioner doing—an officer who has been paid from the hard-earned taxes of these very poor people, moneys for which any responsible Government would have strictly to account. Sir, we did not hear about him. We heard no doubt of the anxiety of His Excellency the Governor in his cool residence at Ootacamund. We also heard that he despatched post-haste his Private Secretary to Trichinopoly, but, still the world was wondering where the Labour Commissioner was. My complaint is that even now we have to guess where the Labour Commissioner was. Sir, this is not a trivial matter. It is a matter involving the well-being and the bread of about millions of people of this province. Sir, as a result of his inactivity mainly, to-day you find a number of enterprising and hard-working labourers rotting in jails. Sir, they are rotting in jails, but their condition is not after all so very bad as the condition of those I am about to describe, because in jails these people are at least fed and clothed but what about the thousands who lost their jobs."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :— " I thought the hon. Member had given up referring to the labour strike, but again he is going off at a tangent from the points relevant to the motion. The motion, I believe, is to discuss the activities or inactivities of the Labour Commissioner in this strike."

* MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :— " Sir, I want to show that the indifference of the Labour Commissioner was the main cause for the suffering of these thousands of people in Southern India. I hope the Labour Commissioner even if he feels he has not got any duty to answer to this House under this irresponsible Government, I must remind him as a good Christian he will have to answer elsewhere for this neglect. Sir, one word more. The question will come to vote and whatever may be the party spirit exhibited in this House

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on other questions, I want to appeal to my fellow Members of the House belonging to the Justice party that the sufferings on account of the inactivity of the Labour Commissioner have been visited upon that very community which they say they are representing, namely, the forty million non-Brahmans. I hope they will remember this at the time of voting. With these words, I make the motion."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I second the motion, Sir."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Mr. President, I desire to second the motion and in seconding, I may express my estimate of the work of the Labour Commissioner in the recent railway strike. The Labour Commissioner seems to be a very interesting personality who is found to be absent at the most critical time. This is not the first experience of the absence of that gentleman during the critical time. However, in connexion with the railway strike, I must say that anybody who has studied the programme of the railways ought to have anticipated this strike. Long before the strike happened there were indications which show that in the course of further machinations of the workshops of these railways a large number of labourers would be displaced."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will continue his speech the day after to-morrow."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know what would happen if I should be absent on that day?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take his chance."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

IV

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. G.O. No. 495, Development, dated 20th March 1929, ordering the publication of a rule under section 19 (b) 15 of State Aid to Industries Act. ^a

2. Statement regarding the keeping of permanent vacancies in the Selection Grade in any Provincial Service unfilled for over two years (vide answer to clause (c) of question 763-F answered on 28th November 1928). ^b

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

^a Printed as Appendix XI on pages 824-825 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix XII on page 826 infra.